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INTERNATIONAL

REAPER CREW!

INTERVIEWED

THE UK'S MOST PROLIFIC AIRSOFT TEAM - WE TALK GUNS, GEAR, GAMES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

PAGE 22

PISTOLS ONLY!

DITCH THE RIFLE AND FILL YOUR HANDS!! GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

FIGHTING FIT

TRIM THE FAT AND GIVE YOURSELF AN EDGE ON THE FIELD

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RECOIL VS PTW!
HAVE AEGS BURIED THE PTW PLATFORM?

NEW GUNFIGHTER BELT
WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS SHAKE THINGS UP A BIT!



VOL:11 ISS:8 £4.25
977150 858012
08


CPC
VERUS
JPC

LAMBORGHINI
vs FERRARI!
BUT WHICH
RIG FINISHES
FIRST IN THIS
GEAR TEST?

PHOTO BY THOMAS COX

O7

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patent number: GB2491624

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Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Internal hydration sleeve
Multiple compression straps
Padded Vertex back and straps
Waist strap
Grab carry handle
Velcro ID panel
2 x V-Lock
1 x D-Lock

srp: £45.00



LAZER SPECIAL OPS PACK

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Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

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ADVANTAGE**



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Hydration bladder mesh pocket
Shoulder straps with QR buckles
Compatible with Plate Carrier
1 x Large Velcro ID panels
2 x V-Lock, 1 x D-Lock

srp: £32.95



LAZER GARRISON PACK

Capacity: 35ltr (approx)
Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 44 x 31 x 26
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote only

Lazer MOLLE Panels on front/sides
Fully mesh vented back
Internal Nylon hood closure
Velcro ID panel
2 x Main compression straps
Elasticated rim on lid
1 x Grab handle
Padded shoulder straps
Sternum strap with QR buckle
2 x V-Lock, 1 x D-Lock

srp: £27.50



LAZER PLATFORM

Material: 600D Cordura
Size cms: One size fits most
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Lazer MOLLE Webbing Panels
Velcro ID Panels
Quick Release Buckles
Adjustable Padded Shoulder Straps
Ventex Internals
Front & Rear Armour Compartments
Internal Side Utility Pouches
Removable Side Panels
Rear Cord-Lock Fastener
2 x MOLLE Bungee Retainer

srp: £75.95

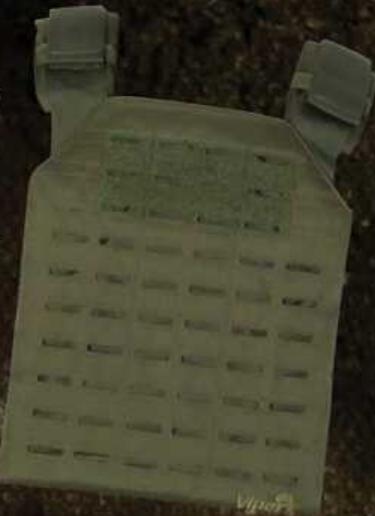


LAZER CARRIER

Material: 600D Cordura
Size: One size fits most
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Lazer MOLLE Webbing Panels
Velcro ID Panels
Quick Release Buckles
Adjustable Padded Shoulder Straps
Padded Ventex Internals
Front & Rear Armour Compartments
Velcro outlet retainer

srp: £45.00



LAZER WAIST BELT

Material: 600D Cordura
Size: Fits up to 52" waist
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Full Lazer MOLLE exterior
Padded Ventex system
Interior webbing belt included
4 x D-Ring attachment points

srp: £22.95



LAZER DROP LEG PLATFORM

Material: 600D Cordura
Dimensions cms: 22 x 25 x 1
Colours: V-Cam, Coyote, Green, Black

Lazer MOLLE front panel
Left or right fitting
Elasticated webbing straps
Quick release buckle fastening

srp: £18.95



FOREWORD

AIRSOFT INTERNATIONAL VOLUME 11 ISSUE 8

AIRSOFTERS
MAGAZINE OF CHOICE
WINNER!
OF THE 2015 POPULAR
AIRSOFT PLAYERS
CHOICE AWARDS



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With a pen in one hand and a 1911 in the other, this talented guy has us covered!

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DISCLAIMER

The publishers of Airsoft International (AI) magazine do not condone the possession of firearms, airsoft models or replica weaponry for illegal purposes.

The hobby sport of airsoft skirmishing is conducted at specialist skirmish sites or clubs throughout the world, in controlled conditions where strict safety policies are implemented.

Airsoft International magazine does not publish articles on real firearms or blank firing weapons. Airsoft replicas should not be confused with real firearms, air rifles or BB guns.

In accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Home Office in the UK (overseas readers may be subject to different laws), airsoft replicas are not to be used or brandished by any individual in a threatening manner in public or in any way to cause a person to fear personal injury.

Airsoft replicas are recommended for use at professionally run skirmish sites. Individuals ignoring this advice will be breaking the law and can expect severe penalties imposed upon them from their local constabularies.

CLEAR THE DECKS!

I'm pretty sure airsoft guns breed... I'm also pretty sure that they eat money too but that's besides the point. You put two airsoft guns in a room together, you look away and before you know it there are 4... By the following week there might be 8 and this exponential expansion seems to happen whether you like it or not. Unless you are able to buy a new house every couple of years there comes a time when you have to say "enough is enough" and have a clear out.

Clearing out your airsoft guns can be a painful and difficult process because if you are like us, you will love each and every one in its own special way, even if you have never even taken it to a game. There are probably those guns in your collection that you don't even intend of skirmishing, they just sit there begging to be fondled and fiddled with as you wait for something to download or those ones that are "ongoing projects" that might not work until you find that right spare part.

Personally, I've just gone on a campaign to clear out all but the bare essentials. Why? Basically because the idea of choosing which gun to use at any given game was beginning to become a chore. They all worked well, most fit my load out and I had plenty of magazines available for them, but do you REALLY need 5 guns that essentially do the same thing? I got to the point where I decide that I didn't.

I like playing CQB games a lot. I like getting up close and clearing buildings so a "DMR" or something that requires me to stand off from the target is more of a frustration than a benefit. I run all my guns below the limit for minimum engagement distances for this exact reason. Again, I generally just use semi-auto too, so high-speed, high capacity builds are not really my thing. I've come to the point in my airsoft "career" for want of a better word, where I know what I like and I don't feel the need for anything else... Just yet.

Herein lies the other great reason to have a clear out... Money. I've flogged off a whole host of my kit. My credit card is looking healthy and there's lots of space in my storage. Is it going to stay like that? Nah, of course not! Especially not with fun things like the TM AA12 on the horizon! This time next year I'll be having another clear out no doubt! I guess the moral of this little tale is that if you find things getting a little stale, don't be afraid to let a few guns go and bring some new ones into your life. Shake things up a bit and introduce some variety, after all, it's the spice of life!

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600D CORDURA



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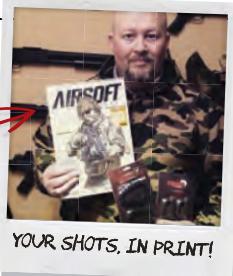
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BY PHIL
BUCKNALL



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SUBSCRIBE?
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AND GET AI IN
BOTH HARD
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Write in with your views and be in with a chance to win a fun prize from AiHQ!

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THE S.H.I.T.

THE SNEAKY HARD INSERTION TEAM - FROM THE UK

EACH MONTH IN AI WE'LL BE FEATURING TEAMS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD. WHETHER YOU'RE IN A BAND OF MODERN WARFIGHTERS OR RETRO 'NAM GRUNTS OR EVEN A LOOSE BAND OF FRIENDS THAT GET TOGETHER TO COMPETE ON A SKIRMISH FIELD, THEN THIS IS THE SECTION TO LET THE WORLD KNOW WHAT YOUR ALL ABOUT.

THE KEY MEMBERS:

S.H.I.T. are primarily friends. We were friends before we discovered airsoft and we are friends as a team. The "core" members though are Jo and Ben Fabian, Dan Wheeler, Chris Kay and Phillip Sprott but we do have a few other guest members that join the cause when we need to bolster numbers. We play as friends and we don't have a hierarchy, although Ben usually ends up taking the lead with organisation!

TEAM STYLE:

As we mentioned, we use the word 'team' loosely, we are a group of friends but that doesn't mean we don't like to play hard. We've competed in both Ai 5-Man tournaments and placed well in both. We are particularly proud of upholding our record of the best team around the timed pistol course both times! We like to try out new sites and if there's a theme to follow, we go into it wholesale. We might be a casual organisation but we don't do things by halves, as such we're not scared of getting into character, swapping our load outs around and adding to the atmosphere! We also love to get up close and personal in games, so CQB sites are our favourite!

TEAM KIT:

Our team kit changes depending on what we are playing and the scenario involved. For general gaming, we run out in mostly MTP kit for a unified look. We are all packing TM Glock 18Cs, a couple of us have MP9s and there's a healthy smattering of support guns, perfect for taking and clearing buildings and room!

We took part in the Tour Of Duty Vietnam event at Bulby Woods a few years back but decided to put a new spin on things. We went in all black and kitted up as "Russian Advisors" complete with a giant red soviet flag. If that didn't give our position away, the bad Russian accents and yelling definitely did!

Just a few weeks ago we headed to one of our favourite sites, MAW, for one of their game days. We were under the command of Ben in his "General Sagadievs" guise, cruising around the site, taking no prisoners and having a great time. Another giant flag got

an airing and this time we did our best Borat accents in an effort to rally the troops to our cause. We had a great day and despite being outnumbered almost 2 to 1 we headed home victorious!

TEAM BACKGROUND

As we mentioned, we are all friends. We first took up airsoft as a "let's get out and about this weekend" kinda thing, but after that first taste, we were all hooked. In honestly, the SHIT came about after a need to organise transport to and from events, but after a while we realised that with a little organisation and some decent communication we could be pretty successful on the field. We don't always play together since we all have work and family commitments but when we do, we really like to make the most of it and have a good time.

FAVOURITE SITES:

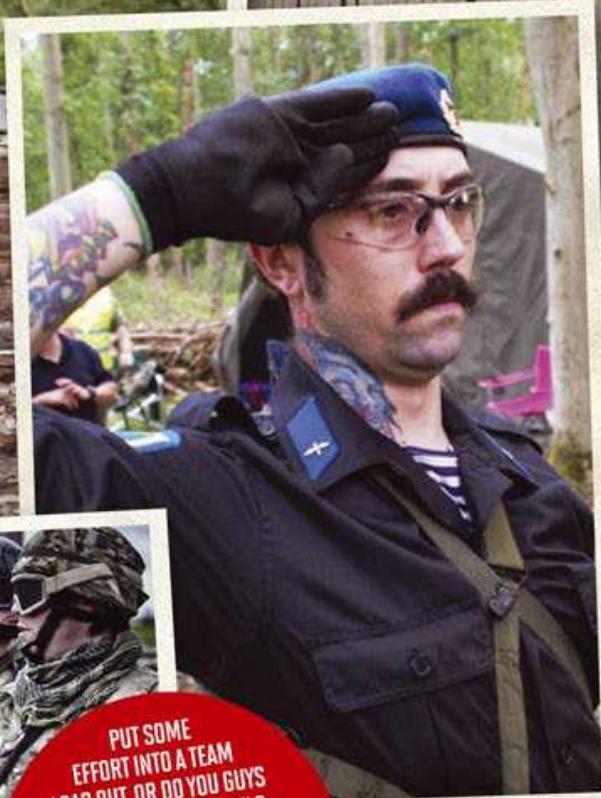
Our favourite sites are the ones that suit how we like to play, close, fast and furious. We like to head down to Reading and hit up The Mall every few months, we regularly like to stay sharp and visit Urban Assault and often

we head to MAW at Melton Mowbray, since geographically it's in the middle of where all our members live. We've also hit up Serial 40 on the South Coast, which we love.

FUTURE GAMES:

We are always out and about, whether it's the whole team or just a few members visiting a new site but on the calendar we have some dates set to visit MAW again, perhaps the Mall and maybe RAF Upper Heyford? Who knows!





PUT SOME
EFFORT INTO A TEAM
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AND GET YOU AND YOUR TEAM
IN PRINT IN THE AI READY
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THE PICTURES

We're not expecting masterpieces when it comes to images, unless of course you are a consummate camera man, all we need is a clear, full length shot (with your feet and head in frame) of you, from the front and the back, just like the example pictured here. Don't worry about any fancy photoshopping, our trained monkey does that! He will take time to 'cut' you out of your background, like the example pictured here.

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SENDING IN

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- ✓ Your name
- ✓ Your age
- ✓ Where you're from
- ✓ Your airsoft Team
- ✓ Your home Site
- ✓ About Me

The 'about me' section should be around 150 words about how you got into airsoft, where you play, your favourite game and who you play with.

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Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

UNIFORM/CAMO BOTTOM:
Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

HELMET/HEADWEAR:

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EYE PRO:

Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

PLATE CARRIER/ CHEST RIG:

Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

BELT RIG/HOLSTER:

Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

BOOTS:

Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

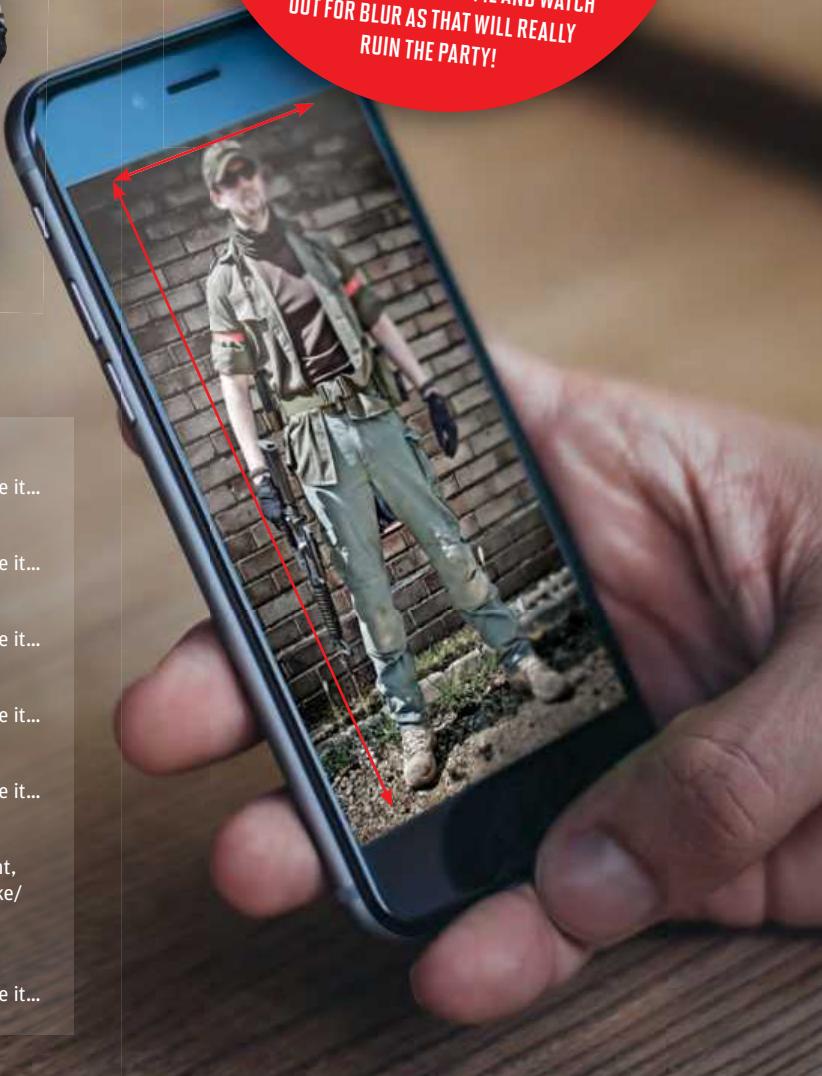
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WEAPON:

Make/Model/Price/Why you use it...

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21	5.11 WATERPROOF TACLITE 8" BOOTS.....	£135.00
22	5.11 SKYWEIGHT WATERPROOF SIDE ZIP BOOTS.....	£121.50
23	VIPER ELITE 5 BOOTS.....	£89.99
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5.11

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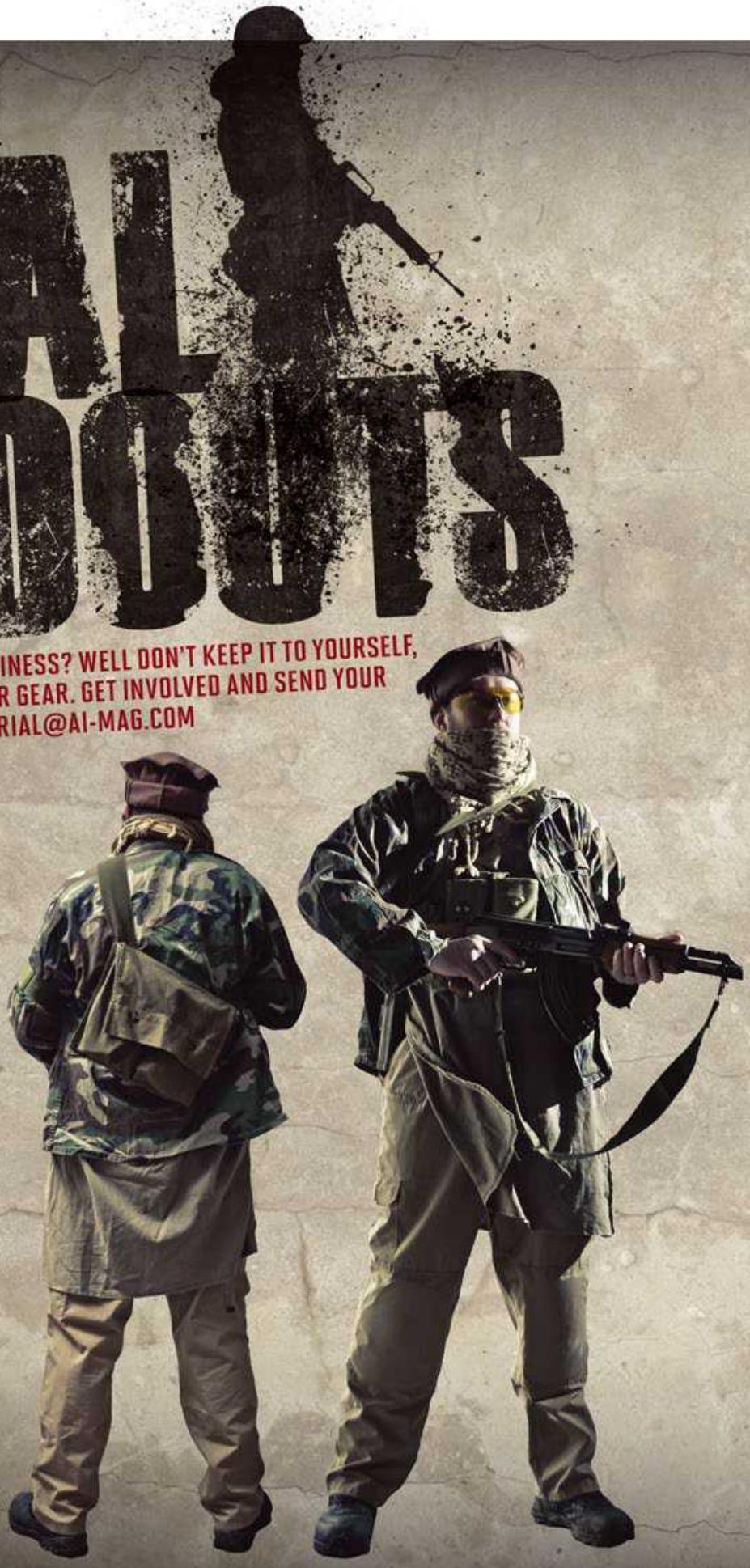
LEGAL LOAD OUTS

GOT YOUR KIT TOGETHER? LOOK THE BUSINESS? WELL DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW OFF YOUR GEAR. GET INVOLVED AND SEND YOUR LOAD OUT PICTURES IN TO US AT: EDITORIAL@AI-MAG.COM



NAME: DUFFY
AGE: CLASSIFIED
FROM: BIGGLESWADE
TEAM: FSG

Having played regular skirmish airsoft for a good few years, I've cut down the amount of game that I attend and now I focus on more mil-sim and weekend events. I love a good challenge so if a game needs balancing out and players need to move from the comfort of the "blue" force to fill up the OpFor side, I'm more than happy to make the switch. To keep things looking authentic, I spent a little time and cash building this themed load out.



**■ HEADWEAR:**

AFGHAN PESHWARI CHITRAL PAKOL WOOL HAT
EBAY - £9

The Pakol hat is a traditional item of clothing in tribal Afghanistan and really gives the load out some authenticity and character. They are also made of thick felt so are pretty warm too!

MINOR CRUSADER SHEMAGH - GREY GROUP - £10

Shemaghs are another traditional piece of clothing in Arab countries, with different woven patterns sometimes denoting political or religious affiliations. Many Western troops have adopted the item due to its versatility and these Western made ones use different patterns to avoid any confusion about affiliations.

■ UNIFORM TOP:

US WOODLAND BDU SHIRT
US ARMY SURPLUS - EBAY - £5

We can probably blame OBL for the "woodland jacket" look being used but they are reasonably common in Afghanistan, presumably supplied by the US as aid for troops when they were fighting the Russians previously.

AFGHANISTAN "PERAHAN TUNBAN"
TOY SOLDIER - £32

The Peheran Tunban is a reproduction of the traditional local dress for most men. It's surprisingly difficult to find genuine items for sale so the Toy Soldier replica comes in very handy.

■ UNIFORM BOTTOM:

TACLITE PRO PANTS - 5.11 - TACTICAL KIT - £40

It's doubtful that any rebel fighters will have actually picked up a pair of 5.11 pants but in this load out they look the part, the drab colour not really standing out too much. The added benefit of discreet kneepads allows you some protection without ruining the look.

■ LOAD CARRYING:
CHICOM RIG - EBAY - £13

There are probably almost as many Chi-Com rigs out there as there are AKs and they always seem to pop up in use by rebels everywhere. They cost next to nothing and give you space for 3 extra AK sized magazines and not a massive amount else.

CLAYMORE BAG - (FREE FROM A FRIEND)

Phil has adopted this claymore bag as a lo-tech way of increasing his carrying capacity without breaking "character". You can fit anything from a snack to a sidearm in here and even if you don't have generous mates, they cost very little.

■ EXTRAS:

'BLACK OPS' BOOTS BLACKHAWK
TACTICAL KIT - UK
MOTOROLA XTNID RADIO

As Phil says, you probably won't want to be taking to the field in a pair of sandals so a simple and discreet pair of boots is in order to keep your feet down and your ankles in good shape.

FALL IN! GET INVOLVED AND GET SEEN

TEAM SCENE!

IF YOU HAVE A TEAM THAT'S BEEN KICKING ASS AND TAKING NAMES, YOU DESERVE SOME AIRTIME! WHETHER YOU ARE A LOOSE GROUP OF LIKEMINDED GUYS THAT GET TOGETHER ONCE A MONTH FOR A GOOD OLD SHOOT-UP OR IF YOU ARE A TIGHT-KNIT, WELL DRILLED SQUAD OF ULTIMATE BADASSES THAT SPENDS THEIR TIME TRAINING METICULOUSLY, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

It's simple to get involved and become a part of Ai whether you want to get yours faces known, are recruiting for new members or simply want a memento to treasure.

Step 1 is to fill out our short survey and tell us a few details about what you do, where you do it and how longs it's been happening. It doesn't matter if you've been together forever or have formed up recently, you are still valid!

■ TEAM NAME

What name you guys go by...

■ THE KEY MEMBERS

Who's who in your team organisation. What members are there, where do they come from and what roles do they play? Are some members of your team natural assaulters? Do you have snipers or marksmen or are you a full-on posse of total loonies? Also, what happens off the field? Who does the tech work? Who's the guy that always has a spare battery and who keeps the rest organised. Go into a little detail here.

■ TEAM KIT

Are you a team that uses a matching load out? If so, what gear do you know, trust and use? Do you do impressions of real world units or are you all simply in it for yourselves taking what you need, when you need it. If you use more than one style of kit, that's great! Tell us all about it because we want to know!

■ TEAM BACKGROUND

We want to know what angle you are coming from. It doesn't matter if you are a gang of ex-military guys looking for a blow-out at the weekends or if you are a group of computer-gamers that likes to get out and get some fresh air, it's all cool! Tell us where you come from and what bought you together.

■ FAVOURITE SITES

Give the places you love a shout-out here. Where's the best place you've visited? Do you like to travel or are you happy at your local site making the most of the games there?

■ FUTURE GAMES

What are your upcoming plans and ambitions? Do you have places to go and people to battle? Do you dream of going overseas to play? Tell us what is next on your team's agenda.

■ FURTHER LINKS

If you have websites, Facebook pages or social networks we can follow, hit us up with the links here! As many as you like, don't be shy!

■ PICTURES

We all want to see you in action so please accompany your entry with as many good quality images as you can, ok, no need for hundreds but between 10 and 12 works. The bigger, brighter and bolder the better. Also, if you have a team logo, share it with us because it'll look great in print!

■ SENDING IT TO US!

It's dead simple to send your package over to us, simply bung an email together and point it towards Editorial@Ai-mag.com - Couldn't be easier... Once we receive it, we'll be in touch to let you know what is going on!

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REAPER CREW! INTERVIEWED



THE REAPER CREW OR REAPER CREW AIRSOFT AS THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES READ, ARE LIKELY A NAME YOU HAVE HEARD OF BEFORE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HANG OUT ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND OTHER MEDIA PAGES. BASED IN THE SOUTH OF THE UK THEY COVER PLENTY OF GROUND BETWEEN THEM, VISITING A WIDE RANGE OF SITES AND LAYING DOWN A HAIL OF BBS BEFORE THEM... JUST LIKE THOSE BBS, IT'S FAIR TO SAY THEIR REPUTATION PRECEDES THEM.

We caught up with a sizeable contingent of The Crew at the most recent Ai500 and between bouts of crushing the opposition, we agreed that the guys needed more coverage, they deserved it! We went straight to the top and tapped up Dan, the crew's head honcho, to talk more about what they do.

WE TAKE A KNEE WITH DAN, FLOYDY AND ALFIE - ALL IMAGES BY THOMAS COX





THE TEAM

AIRSOFT Hi Dan, it's great to catch up with you and get a chance to talk more about what you guys do. We must admit we've spent more than our fair share of time tuned in to your updates and news on various different media channels and we always love to see what you guys are up to. I guess to kick things off, how are you doing today and what have you been up to?

RC Hi guys! Im all good today, thanks! Trying to find a few moments between juggling the real world and the world of airsoft which is always tough as Im sure you are aware!

AIRSOFT So then, down to business, who are the crew, do you have any kind of team structure and how long have you been together?

RC Firstly, Reaper Crew is divided into RC South and RC North.

DOWN SOUTH WE HAVE

- RC-01** Martyn Floyd: President
- RC-02** Dan FooFighter: Vice President
- RC-03** Sachin Patel
- RC-04** Lukas Juskevicius
- RC-08** Shalom Wengrovitz
(Former Israeli Paratrooper)
- RC-09** Alfie Ski (Serving Royal Engineers EOD)
- RC-10** Conor Taylor - Mini Reaper
- RC-11** Robert Taylor

UP NORTH THERE IS

- RC01-N** Dan Stango: President
- RC02-N** Akira Sakura: Vice President
- RC03-N** Ben Townshend
- RC-04-N** Daniel Rowe
- RC-05-N** Sam Lowerson

RC01 and Rc02 started the team back in 2012 and their love for the military, weapons and of course Sons of Anarchy. A lot of what happens are based around a motor cycle clubs laws.

We have 2 chapters, a Southern (*mother team*) based in and around London/Kent and a Northern team based out of Redcar. Each are run by their own respective presidents.

AIRSOFT As a group, how long have you been kicking it together? Can you recall the first games you played or the origins of your team?

RC RC01 started the team with RC02 who have been best friends for over 20 years & grew up together as kids in London. We were working one day in London and found Wolf Armouries, the guns looked cool and knew we had to get in to it!

We played a few games at The Bunker and fell in love. We were already bikers and when Reaper Crew was formed we started playing down at The Sandpit in Dartford. The team grew we now have up to 13 players. Some are more active than others due to kids, family, and of course money, but that's always the way. 3 years ago in those early days we had no idea about what things would develop into!

AIRSOFT Do you always play together and how come you ended up forming the team?

RC Our team is a lot different from most we are more of a brotherhood than just a team. We are always together outside of airsoft, a lot of us work together during the day too.

We found the stronger we are off the field the better we work on the field. We have a top table, consisting of 5 key members, and decisions on the team are all talked about and voted on. That decision is final. The team evolved into close friends, basically family as we met other likeminded players who were also new to the sport and looking to join a group.

AIRSOFT Do you guys run any particular load outs or have any influence from real military units? We'll talk more specifically about gear and kit shortly?

RC The teams mainly run Multicam. We don't really base or follow any rules kit wise, each team member is different and some of us rock a JPC, some rock a CPC, each to your own we say! Whatever works for the individuals and their style of operating. It is much more a brotherhood than a military-style operation to make us more flexible and not so locked down to one specific load out style.

The team is structured with a Mil-Sim squad in mind but the less active members are always involved in lighter skirmishes.



RC AIRSOFT INTERVIEWED

RC-01 STUMBLED ACROSS AIRSOFT WHILST TRYING TO PURCHASE A REPLICA SHOTGUN TO WELD ONTO HIS CHOPPER MOTORCYCLE! HE TOOK ME ALONG TO ONE GAME AND THAT WAS IT, I FELL IN LOVE WITH IT!

- DAN FOO





MEDIA

Capturing the attention of the masses is one of the major strengths of Reaper Crew Airsoft and social media has played a huge part in getting their name out there. This is definitely a subject we want to talk to the guys about!

AIRSOFT You guys are obviously pretty prolific when it comes to social media. Is that something you do consciously or is it someone that has developed?

RC Dan takes care of the media side of things and has spent a great deal of time and effort in his work to not only bring great quality photos and videos but to also engage as much as possible with the followers. We have made some amazing friends in the community from some of the biggest worldwide names all the way down to helping new and less knowledgeable players with kit questions, gun painting, upgrades etc, and it is just as important for us to help upcoming players get into & enjoy airsoft without being made to feel that we are above or better than them.

AIRSOFT Which networks do you make the most use of?

RC We focus our efforts over Instagram, Facebook and YouTube at present.

AIRSOFT If time is a constraint, which do you think is the most effective network to get your name out there on?

RC By far our most successful network is Instagram!

AIRSOFT Your pictures have always been some of the most striking that we see online. Do you use any particular hardware or software to make them look like they do?

RC I'm afraid this information is as closely guarded as the KFC recipe! It's known only by Dan & Tom Cox! What I can tell you it involves a lot of time and hard work to achieve!

AIRSOFT Do you guys stick to static images or are you into video? If so what kind of kit are you using?

RC As above we do a mixture of both static and video updates. We prefer Contour cameras purely because of their slicker form factor avoiding the whole Teletubbies GoPro mount look!

AIRSOFT Lots of teams start up Facebook and Instagram feeds and pages. If you had any advice to share, what would you say was essential to attract followers and ensure success?

RC Keep your content as fresh as possible, don't just post any old pic, spend a bit of time and effort into producing one awesome shot over uploading ten average ones, it will pay off

AIRSOFT Do you believe in quality over quantity when it comes to making posts, or do you prefer to keep in touch with your fanbase with little updates?

RC Again, as above, quality is the key!

RC AIRSOFT FACEBOOK:
ReaperCrew Airsoft

RC AIRSOFT INSTAGRAM:
@reapercrewairsoft / @dan_footfighter

RC AIRSOFT YOUTUBE:
SEARCH: 'REAPERCREW AIRSOFT'



GEAR

Everyone loves a bit of gucci gear and none more so than the Reaper Crew guys! We will find out what they prefer to use and how important brands are to them...

AIRSOFT You guys are obviously keen on getting geared up. What kind of stuff do you prefer? Do you have one uniform for the team or do you have more than one set of kit to use in different environments?

RC Because we like to play in a multitude of different environments, we have heaps of kit to suit. As we mentioned earlier though, the ethos is on what works for each individual so it's not about everyone getting geared up to match each other.

AIRSOFT Do you guys run real-steel gear or replica kit?

RC Individual tastes, budgets and preferences are the influential factors here. Most of us love a bit of genuine Crye gear and we all own as much as we can afford!

AIRSOFT What sort of gear is preferred by team members? What sort of brands do you look to, to trust?

RC Of course Crye, but Dan & a few of the other hardcore guys have been ditching the crye in favour of Semapo, as they produce just as awesome quality plus plenty more camo variants that would cost you a small third world country to purchase in crye, we are also using a lot of Warrior Assault, Ferro Concepts, Oakley, Revision, Saloman, WileyX and other real steel brands.

AIRSOFT We noticed you wear a few manufacturer brands and patches, we assume you guys have relationships with suppliers and favourite retailers. Do you have any favourite that you go to first to supply your kit?

RC You'll see us wearing Hueys MTO patches at the moment and they have been supplying us with some excellent service & top level kit. Not forgetting the guys at UK Tactical, Viper Tactical & Military 1st who have really looked after us. We are always on the look out for something new and exciting though so that's where it pays off to get connected with us on social media. As soon as we find somewhere worth knowing about, we'll share it.

AIRSOFT How important to airsoft do you think gear and kit is? Do you think it plays a major part in the appeal of the game and should we focus so much time and attention on it, in your opinion?

RC That's a great question. Gear and kit is a big, big part of airsoft and I don't think it would be the same without it. The problem is though, people get bogged down in it or think they can't play because they don't have something in particular. Kit's great but you can't forget the grass roots!



RC

AIRSOFT

INTERVIEWED



GUNS

Guns make the world go round, at least for us anyway, so it would be remiss of us if we didn't tap the Reaper guys up to ask their opinions on etc matter...

AIRSOFT OK then, guns, as a collective, what's the most popular weapon platform with The Reaper Crew?

RC Guns most of us run M4s choose the TM recoil variety, there's also a few SCAR's. Each gun is different as each member runs their own preferred optics and attachments with

them, like everything else this is all down to personal choice. A good few of us run G&P Crackers (with a few tweaks) for CQB (these little beasts always turn heads). We have a M249 support gun when needed and a variety of sniper rifles and shotguns.

Side arm wise we have a few Glocks in the team, a few 1911s plus H&K USPs and Springfield XDMS

AIRSOFT OK, onto the thorny subject, AEG, Gas or "other"? Do you guys have a preference? What's your opinion on HPA stuff and dare we mention it, PTWs?

RC A few of us run gas guns once in a while for

fun, but the majority of us are firmly locked into AEGs! We don't feel much need for anything else to be perfectly honest!

AIRSOFT In a similar vein, what brands do you think are the best and who does your tech work for you?

RC Our preferences are reflected in the guns that we own and use, it's TM and G&P doing the business for us right now.

As for tech and upgrade work, if it's not done within the team, then it's sent to our resident gun tech Ross Folwell who never ceases to amaze us with his skills.



SPONSORSHIP

AIRSOFT Sponsorship is something a lot of upstart teams aspire to. As an established team, do you have any sponsors and how do you feel smaller teams should go about approaching businesses if they wish to go down that route?

RC We've recently been lucky enough to pick up a sponsorship with Enola Gaye and are pleased to be their first sponsored team in the UK and we are loving our partnership with them. Who wouldn't, right? We also have a great partnership with BritkitUSA and have more exciting things coming real soon.

It's all new to us and has taken a lot of very hard work, but we would advise that you keep fighting the good fight all the way. If you are representing a sponsor you have to remember how your actions will reflect on not only your team but those associated with you, so always bear that in mind!

AIRSOFT Are there any guys out there that you would like to give a special shout out to, say thanks or return a little mutual support for?

RC Following on from above we'd love to give a shout out and a big thanks to all our followers on social media platforms.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Cody Saya (*instagram@radbuddha*) for creating our awesome bearded reaper logo, Tom Cox who has helped us with many of the images you see here and for being a true professional, we'd also like to say thank you to the staff at UCAP Sandpit, Airborne Airsoft, CAG and all of the other sites we have visited.

We'd also like to thank the guys at Huey's MTO, BritkitUSA, Enola Gaye, Semapo Gear, UK Tactical, Viper Tactical and last but not least, Airsoft International for hooking us up with this opportunity!

Plus the following Instagram accounts for being true ambassadors to the worldwide airsoft community...

- @robbo้มurray
- @wicked_559
- @danielcastrophoto
- @toottalltoms
- @taskforceoneptune
- @sergeant_nran
- @airsoft
- @worldairsoft
- @ao_dave

RC FACEBOOK:
AIRSOFT ReaperCrew Airsoft

RC INSTAGRAM:
AIRSOFT @reapercrewairsoft / @dan_foofighter

RC YOUTUBE:
AIRSOFT SEARCH: 'REAPERCREW AIRSOFT'

THANKS TO ALL AT REAPER CREW FOR ALLOWING US TO FEATURE THEIR ESTABLISHED AND GROWING TEAM IN AI. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT COMES NEXT AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THEM AT FUTURE EVENTS!





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RECOILS

ARE THEY MORE OF A TRAINING WEAPON THAN A TRAINING WEAPON?

BY PHIL BUCKNALL

This month I'm going to focus on a specific but vital part of our kit: AEG's, but more specifically recoil AEG's and their increasing prevalence over the last few years and their closer emulation of real firearms compared to training weapons. So I ask you the readers two things, do you consider the recoil AEG's to be the future of electric powered guns or another passing fad in a hobby that's had many and secondly; with recoil are they actually better than training weapons?

AFTER HIS DEBUT LAST MONTH AND THE GRITTY TOPIC OF WHETHER AIRSOFT DESERVES A PLACE AROUND THE TABLE OF REAL STEEL SHOOTING DISCIPLINES, PHIL B. IS GOING TO ONCE MORE LIFT THE LID ON ANOTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUE AND THIS ONE IS PERHAPS CLOSER TO HOME THAN ANY. THE THORNY SUBJECT OF WHETHER RECOIL AEG'S HAVE SURPASSED THE PTW IN TERMS OF REALISM AS A TRAINING WEAPON.



TOKYO MARUI RECOIL
CUSTOM L119A1 UKSF/SBS

AS I MENTIONED LAST MONTH I've been in this hobby for the long haul, over twenty years man and boy! I've seen all of the different types of power source come and sometime go but the AEG has not only stayed but become the mainstay go to choice for the vast majority of players. Cast your mind back to when you started. I bet when you asked the infamous question "which gun should I buy?" Whatever advice was offered on actual models 99% of people would've said get an AEG as your first gun and with good reason. Over the years they have been refined and tweaked to what we have today and that is a platform that gives great reliability, consistency and choice. Tokyo Marui led the field for many years and their gearbox design is copied by every manufacturer that produces an electric rifle but then along came Systema, a company that was renowned for its aftermarket parts made to improve TM-based guns. They brought out the professional training weapon, the PTW.

This wasn't just another AEG but it took the idea, turned it upside down, ripped it apart and then threw it back together in a different way. Gone was the old style gearbox and motor and the not quite 1:1 scaling. Instead they had receivers the same size and thickness as a real M4; a pistol grip with a thinned down motor in it, which was again the same size as a real one. A split gearbox using planetary gears and a separate cylinder and air nozzle that meant the gun would break down the same way as a real M4 and they topped it off with an electronic control unit to fire it, monitor the gears position and when the magazine was empty it would stop firing. Sounds pretty good doesn't it? And they are! I've seen some stunning examples absolutely dripping with real steel parts, which fit straight on with no worries about the rail being out of spec slightly - a common problem in Airsoft where tolerances can be measured in feet not thousands of a millimetre but you can expect one to cost north of £1200

and as a system it was squarely aimed at law enforcement and military customers for training and thus out of reach of most airsofters. Of course that didn't deter people and soon enough these started to appear at skirmishes and were to some the next best thing since sliced bread.

Systema held onto the crown of the ultimate AEG for quite a while before clones of their design started to emerge, some better than others! I myself had two Celcius CTW's and it's an experience I'd rather forget but in bringing them out Celcius did reinforce the view that yes, training weapons were a good way to go. This has since been followed by the likes of the DTW's and A&K's take on training weapon's giving players more affordable options and a way to own one without having to remortgage! Now for me a training weapon needs to replicate as closely as possible the real deal as far as it can and training weapon's do a pretty good job but lack one of the biggest things you experience when firing a real rifle - RECOIL!!





TRAINING WEAPONS RECOIL OR PTW WHICH WAY DO YOU LEAN?

All the while TM were busy beavering away in their R&D department and soon enough their next gen. recoil shock AEG's were released. Using all that they knew about AEG's and gearboxes they added recoil into the equation with weights attached to the piston going out the back of the gearbox or on top depending on the model, so now the user actually felt something when they pulled the trigger. There was some feedback in the shoulder at last and whilst it is nowhere near the recoil of a real 5.56mm rifle it gives some tactility to an otherwise pretty dull experience. As an aside I even find the sound more pleasing too as all those parts move! These new rifles were widely embraced and TM's legendary quality control and reliability played no small part in that. Aftermarket parts companies jumped in with both feet and soon it was possible to really modify the heck out of your next gen. recoil gun. Not only did these guns recoil but they went the whole hog and entered training weapon territory as they also stopped when the last BB had been fired (on the AR based guns at least) and they had lower capacity magazines too making them rivals to training weapons. See where I'm going with this? When you see well known figures from the shooting world talk about their use of TM replicas of their real steel rifles for practising drills and low cost training not systems you wonder does the exact 1:1 dimensions of the PTW really matter? Is a slightly fatter pistol grip really that bad or is it the other features and the added felt recoil that's more important?

Fast-forward a little and there are versions from KWA, PTS, Lonex, Bolt and G&P and many

different models not just AR based designs. Now, contrary to my earlier point about what makes a training weapon not all of these manufacturers have incorporated all of the features the TM versions have but they all recoil and so whilst I wouldn't say these are all good enough to make it to TW land it certainly looks like recoiling AEG's are here to stay and flourish as a type.

So that's part one answered... I think... Most of the second part too, but just for good measure; a final thought on Recoil vs TW's. I like to have as realistic an experience when firing my AEG's as is possible but it's something that has never been fully realised for me until recently. This void led to me dabbling with gas blow back rifles and TW's on more than one occasion only to sell them on in pretty short order. I have subsequently sold all of my non-recoiling AEG's and Gas rifles and replaced them with KWA and TM AEG versions and they've changed the way I play totally. If you rattle off a quick burst your aim can indeed shift (however slightly!) due to the imitated recoil so you need to adjust point of aim; mag changes are REALLY important now as is conserving ammo or picking your shots. The gun itself hasn't made me more tactical or even a better player but it has made me think differently, play differently and in turn that has made me a better player.

In fact I'd go so far as to say these are more of a training weapon than a PTW. I can't even entertain buying a gun that doesn't do all the things that the next gen. rifles do - not just TM. It has to recoil, it has to stop functioning after the last BB and it has to have low-cap. mags.



REAL PLAYERS, REAL EXPERIENCE

Don't just take our word for it, we asked a few seasoned players and collectors why they decided to go one way or another when it comes to PTWs vs Recoils. See if any of these points ring true for you!

PHIL PTW OWNER

Why a PTW and not a TM Recoil? It was a close run thing with neither being perfect out of the box but what platforms to start from! Ok, the PTW was that bit more expensive but at the time money wasn't my concern. I NEEDED a rifle that was refined, sturdy in construction and wouldn't keep locking gears in semi automatic. Already owning a AKSU recoil I knew how good the recoils were and nothing feels quite as good as the judder of a burst, it's a smile every time. It was a tough choice both would have had the trigger response and looks I wanted but in the end the flexibility of swapping uppers in and out won me over. OK it's was still a M4 but it could be an XM177, M4A1 or MK18mod1 all with the simple click of 2 pins and I could do it with no need for shop help. My PTW wasn't just another gun it was all my other guns.

JAMIE RECOIL OWNER

I chose recoil because they're cheaper. I'd heard horror stories about the PTW being prone to failure and being expensive to fix up, I want something that works and keeps working. They work straight out of the box and there are no magical upgrades that you need to send it off for. I liked the idea of the bolt stop and I play a lot of Mil-Sim games so the 30 round mags was a big attraction. I've owned a total of 3 recoil AKs, 2 M4s and I'm now on a 416. It's fair to say I'm rather addicted to them and I've never been let down by any of them.

DAN PTW OWNER

Having owned both a Systema PTW and multiple Marui Recoil AEGs, the choice of switching to the PTW was purely a matter of aspiration. A big part of my choice was based in always wanting one because they were acknowledged by many to be the best. One thing to be said is that for more than a few years we didn't always have access to MOSFETS and 11.1v Lipo's. So when the PTW first hit the scene the trigger response was something we hadn't really seen before. Secondly, I am blessed with the income to afford one, so I might as well enjoy it if I can!

BEN RECOIL OWNER

Marui are known for reliability and innovation, so when the recoil line came out, it was bound to bring something new and exciting to airsoft. Although the felt recoil isn't as powerful as a GBBR, it's still a nice departure from the standard AEGs. A PTW is an expense I couldn't personally justify- I have everything I require from a skirmish weapon in the Marui Recoil.

FIGHTING FIT

GIVE YOURSELF AN EDGE

FOR SOME REASON AIRSOFT ACTIVITIES USUALLY NEED TO BE JUSTIFIED IN ORDER TO TAKE UP THE HEFTY CHUNK OF THE WEEKENDS THAT THEY DO, PLUS YOU HAVE TO GET THE POWERS THAT BE TO SIGN OFF THAT ALL IMPORTANT FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE. DON'T WORRY, WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT HERE... MOST FAMILY AND LOVED ONES ARE SATISFIED BY THE FACT THAT AIRSOFT IS "GOOD FOR YOU AND IT GETS YOU EXERCISING IN THE OUTDOORS" AND BY THAT TOKEN, IT'S VIEWED AS A HEALTHY ACTIVITY. THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD ISN'T IT, BUT ARE WE BEING TOTALLY HONEST WITH OURSELVES HERE?

To the non-airsofters in our lives, it's easy to assume what actually goes on at airsoft is a ball-breaking, extremely physically active affair. They have probably sat along side us on the sofa watching TV documentaries with us about guys in camp clothing romping up hills and mountains and doing press-ups until they are crying. They probably think that airsoft is something like that, especially given that we usually clatter in the door after a game looking like we've just run a marathon, and then promptly fall asleep in the bath or something.

"Aww, he's all tired out" they think, "he's been running around like a mad man playing soldiers all day... I'll get him a beer and order some chinese takeaway..."

Little do they know though, airsoft is rarely anywhere near as strenuous as we make out. We don't mention the foot long sausage pie with extra bacon and 2 cans of coke we had for breakfast. We don't mention the fact that much of the morning was spent "defending" an objective whilst matey smoked 5 cigarettes and we don't mention that we went on to have a double cheese burger, some chips, 2 bags of crisps, a snickers and another 2 cans of coke at lunch before stumbling around for the afternoon taking pot shots at a distant enemy because we were too full to move. Somehow though, we managed to make a bit of space during the afternoon and managed to pop into the pub with the lads on the way home and have a swift half of lager along with some chips. Of course, this

is an extreme example I'm making here, but be honest with yourself, when was the last time you REALLY pushed yourself at an airsoft game?

For many, myself included, habit similar to the above became all too commonplace and instead of airsoft being a healthy activity where I'd burn more calories than I'd take in, it becomes an excuse to have a day of indulgence. You might be one of those disciplined guys that eats cleanly, keeps fit and can resist the temptations of the burger wagon. If this is you, well done. Keeping fighting fit though is still something you should consider as elevated fitness DOES make your airsoft game more enjoyable. You can work harder, achieve more and at the end of the day, you'll be nowhere near as tired after a game as you used to be.

► HEALTH AND FATNESS

"Keep fit"... If those words are enough to send a shiver down your spine, read on because in our latest series of articles here in Ai, we are going to be discussing PRACTICAL things that will make a difference to your health, your weight and how effectively you can play the game of airsoft. We're not going to be talking about hardcore military style training, devoting your weeks to running around in gas masks or doing pull-ups in your body armour. What we are going to be talking about is making subtle changes to your routines and habits that will help you shed a few pounds and allow you to enjoy your airsoft more.



ON EDGE - GET FIT - GIVE YOURSELF AN EDGE

"KEEP FIT"... IF THOSE WORDS ARE ENOUGH TO SEND A SHIVER DOWN YOUR SPINE, READ ON BECAUSE IN OUR LATEST SERIES OF ARTICLES HERE IN AI, WE ARE GOING TO BE DISCUSSING PRACTICAL THINGS THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR HEALTH, YOUR WEIGHT AND HOW EFFECTIVELY YOU CAN PLAY THE GAME OF AIRSOFT.



FIGHTING FIT

GIVE YOURSELF AN EDGE

WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE ARE A FEW RECOMMENDATIONS TO GET YOU STARTED AND HOPEFULLY GET YOU FEELING MORE FIGHTING FIT!

ESSENTIAL STRETCHES

You probably remember from PE at school... Stretches... You do them before and after physical exercise to warm yourself up otherwise you'll pull a muscle and you'll be out of the game. So why is it then that when we rock up at a game, bundle out of the car, throw on 10kg of kit and then stumble off stiff as a board without even so much as thinking about limbering up? Truth be told, because we're lazy.

Do some simple stretches before you kit up and start your day. You will feel stronger and more energetic for it and you will be less prone to cramps and injury.

LOWER BACK STRETCH

Your back is the most important thing to stretch out. A pulled back is no fun at all and will ruin your day and maybe even longer. Stretch out gentle and get your back ready for some physical activity before a game.

Start by planting your feet a shoulder width apart and bend down gently whilst keeping your legs straight. Reach down towards your toes as far as you can without straining anything, whilst breathing in and out steadily. When you reach the lowest you can with your

hands, hold the position for 10 seconds and then slowly and steadily straighten your back until you are standing upright.

Repeat this stretch again and each time bend your back and reach down towards your toes with your finger tips as much as you can. Each time hold the stretch for 10 seconds as the lowest point you are comfortable reaching down to. After 4 or 5 stretches, you will probably find your toes or the floor are easily within reach and your lower back will be nicely loosened up.

HIP FLEXOR/QUAD STRETCH

Stretching out your upper legs is another major muscle group that you should pay attention to, especially since you'll be crouching down a lot.

Kneel on floor with both knees bent with the shins on the floor. Lunge right leg forward, so right knee is bent 90 degrees in front of you and your right foot is flat on floor directly under knee. The left leg should be still bent underneath you, parallel to right. Place both hands on top of right knee and press back hip forward, leaning into stretch and keeping torso upright. Hold for 30 seconds and then release. Do this three times before switching legs and repeating.

TRICEPS STRETCH

Stretching your triceps and arms should prevent that "dead limb" feeling the day after your skirmish.

Stand up straight with feet hip-width apart and arms extended overhead. Bend the right elbow so right palm lands on your upper back. Reach the left hand over to grasp just below the right elbow. Gently pull elbow back and toward head and hold for about 45 seconds as you feel the stretch. Switch arms and repeat.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Your diet is essential for two reasons. As the old saying goes "you are what you eat" and never a truer word has been spoken. You should take your diet into consideration firstly because it strongly influences your weight and health and also in the short term, it dictates how you feel when you actually play airsoft, for instance how energetic you feel.

Very few people are seriously in to airsoft enough to allow it to govern their diet completely but let's face it, it's nice to actually fit into that gucci kit you want to buy and look the part isn't it? That's got to be an influential factor in the very least.





Things you should generally avoid too much of are refined sugars which will generally make you pack on weight fast. Things like fizzy drinks, sweets and beer are terrible culprits so if you want to have a fighting chance at dropping some weight be mindful of how much of this kind of food you take on.

Obviously the fat content of your food is going to contribute but also carbohydrates, if not properly metabolised, can cause you to beef up. You do need to take in carbs though but try not to eat them late in the day, after your activities are done.

Certainly in the case of "active" days where you will be skirmishing, you'll use more energy and as such, you'll want to take in more calories in general. This doesn't mean gulping down energy drinks and burgers though... In fact if there was one thing to totally avoid, it's energy drinks. Despite what they might lead you to believe, there are absolutely NO benefits to cans of fizzy caffeine out taurine drinks.

On game days, get up and get a hearty breakfast in you. Anything with oats, like porridge, is a good source slow energy release carbohydrates that should see you through to lunchtime. You can buy some great meal supplements from health food stores under the guise of "instant oats". These are generally just ground up oats that are flavoured and

can be shaken or mixed into food or simply a quantity of milk and consumed before activity. If you are in a hurry, they are a brilliant option.

Then comes the dreaded burger van at lunch. By all means, treat yourself from time to time but is a big, greasy burger sitting in your stomach really going to make you feel like storming around and dispatching enemies like a boss all afternoon? No, it's probably not is it? It's going to make you feel full, sluggish and probably a lot like you need to sneak off early and take a poop before the day is over. Personally, I'm a huge proponent of light lunches on game days. Take on something refreshing and less bulky. You often see a lot of guys maxing out with military ration packs at skirmishes and sure, whilst they are a great option if you have to travel with everything on your back for days on end, they also have a LOT of calories in. They are made for high intensity activity and generally have enough calories in each meal to last your average person a whole day! Slightly less extreme options from camping stores are often more suitable.

If you find yourself needing an energy boost, try and avoid cramming a chocolate bar or crisps down your neck, nuts, "trail mix" or a banana are much healthier options and will give you an energy boost without the massive sugar crash.

CARDIO IS CRUCIAL

Cardio exercise should be your first step towards getting fitter and feeling more energetic when playing airsoft. It will also help you shed weight and move down a few belt holes! Cardio in itself doesn't have to be blasting yourself on a treadmill or running miles with a rucksack on, at least not to start with.

Changing your habits and spending more time walking in day to day life will make a big difference so instead of catching the bus or driving, if you can fit in 30-45 minutes of brisk walking every day, you'll make positive steps.

Cycling is a great exercise too and if it's feasible, jumping on your pushbike and travelling to and from work can make a world of difference to your health and fitness.

Another effective, low-impact activity is swimming. If you have time during the week, try to fit in a few lengths at the local pool to help your general fitness levels.

If you are just starting out, it's not about breaking yourself with a punishing regime, instead, changing your habits and getting in to the routine of a little exercise as often as possible will help. It won't be long before you start to notice the benefits and that will be a massive motivation in itself.

T MONTH

Between now and next month's issue of Ai, it's your mission to change your eating habits, cut out the junk and get into the habit of doing a little light exercise for 20 minutes a day, wherever and whenever you can. Next month we will start to progress on to some slightly more vigorous activities and some basic kit and equipment you can invest in order to assist you in fighting fit!



FIGHTING FIT GIVE YOURSELF AN EDGE

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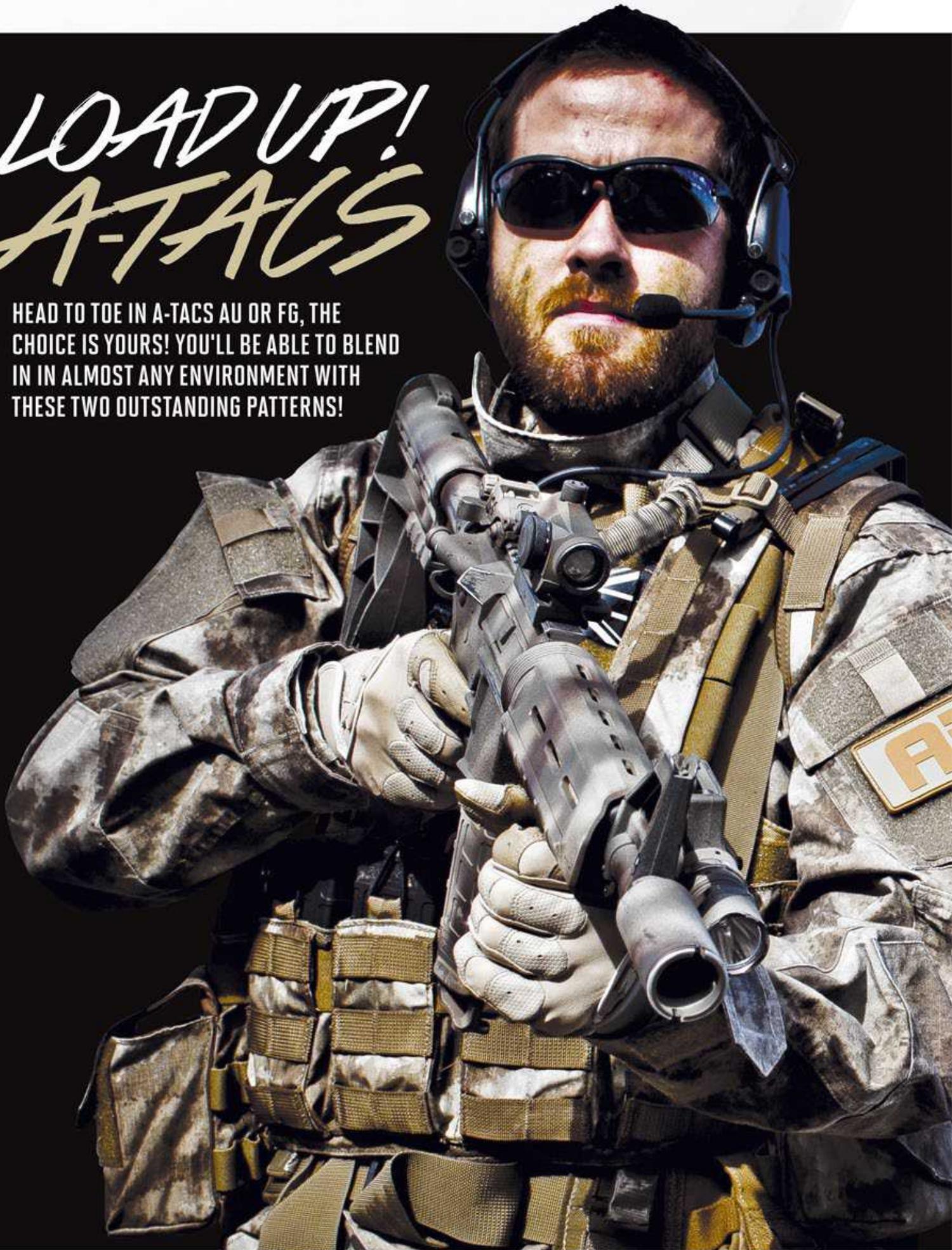
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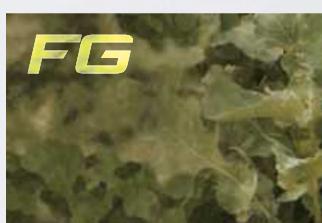




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A-TACS

A-TACS PATTERNS

A-TACS works differently to most modern "digital" patterns, instead it replaces traditional and un-natural square pixels with organic shapes derived from a patented mathematical algorithm. The pattern is then coloured with tones sampled from the real world resulting in a remarkably natural looking and adaptable camouflage suitable for many environments. We first saw this technology in use with the original AU variant, which whilst touted as a universal pattern, had a base tone that is suited towards arid, rocky environments.



Since its release, it's become clear that the concept is remarkably effective, it really works, but there have been cries for a variant tuned towards the greener end of the spectrum, something specially adapted for use in woodland areas.

£18.95

TRIPLE M4 5.56MM

The WAS Triple M4 5.56mm is the pouch to form the mainstay of most load outs. Sized to fit perfectly on the front of most plate carriers, the Triple M4 has enough space for 6 M4 style magazines and stores them with complete securing thanks to dual retention provided by elastic straps and also the Velcro closure flaps that drop over the front. This allows magazines to be retained to a degree even when only one is present in each pouch. Quality reinforcement stitching and perfect sizing make these some of the neatest and most cost effective pouches on the market.

The WAS Triple M4 5.56mm is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and A-TACS FG.



DCS took this idea onboard, but never a team to do things the easy way they didn't want to do injustice by simply re-toning the pattern. Sure, it would have been faster, simpler and maybe even a great way to make a quick buck, but importantly it wasn't the correct way for them to make the most effective concealment pattern for the temperate environment. They needed to roll things back a few steps and experience told them that taking into account the elements and shapes found in the woodland environment, would be essential for them to create another devastatingly effective pattern.

Since military outfits are famously slow to adopt new technology and for good reason, we are only just starting to see A-TACS kit popping up "in theatre" but it's definitely getting out there and being used by those that are allowed to deviate from the strict uniform regulations applied to most soldiers.

WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS

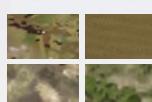
I've happily gone on record and said that if I had to buy my entire load out from one manufacturer, I would more than likely select Warrior Assault Systems as that manufacturer. Combining great designs, fantastic materials, a massive product range and easy availability via UK Tactical here in the UK, there's nothing to dislike. You get all this at phenomenally low prices and if you sign up to email updates, you get a promotional code or sale update most evenings. There's never been a bad time to buy WAS!

£16.99

ADJUSTABLE RADIO POUCH

The ARP or Adjustable Radio Pouch is one of Warrior Assault System's auxiliary pouches. It is ideal for airsoft use and will contain most civilian radios with ease and security, unlike a lot of other radio pouches intended to house a large military-style radio and will swallow up a smaller handset. The ARP uses an elastic mid-band to securely hold the radio and a shock cord topper provides adjustability and further securing. The pouch is relatively low cut in order to provide wiring access and the ability to access vital buttons and knobs on the radio itself. A ITW Nexus clip closes the pouch securely and the whole thing is easily adjusted to fit a broad spectrum of radios. When mounted to a chest rig or plate carrier, the ARP keeps the radio in place and protects it from harm.

The WAS Adjustable Radio Pouch is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and FG.



BLOODY MULTICAM! IT'S EVERYWHERE AND IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR AN "ALL OVER" LOAD OUT, YOU'LL BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE IN ANOTHER PATTERN... THAT IS UNTIL YOU LOOK AT A-TACS! THE FG AND AU PATTERNS FROM A-TACS ARE REMARKABLY GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO BLENDING IN HERE IN THE UK, FG IS GREAT IN SUMMER AND THE BROWN TONES OF AU ACTUALLY WORK FANTASTICALLY WELL WHEN THINGS START GETTING A BIT MUDDIER UNDERFOOT. IT MIGHT NOT BE THE NEWEST PATTERN ON THE BLOCK, BUT TRUST US, THE GUYS AT DIGITAL CONCEALMENT SYSTEMS REALLY DID THEIR HOMEWORK WHEN THEY DEVELOPED A-TACS AND IT'S WAY MORE THAN A FASHION STATEMENT.

£12.95

SINGLE OPEN M4 5.56MM

The Single Open 5.56mm is the open-topped equivalent of the flap-topped single. It's great for adding along side your main pouch but it keeps a low profile by being just big enough to store a single magazine securely. It's again an ideal capacity booster on the sides of your chest rig or plate carrier and we've also found it's ideal as a belt mounted pouch. Again, the bungee retainer does most of the hard work holding the magazine in place, but is easily pulled to the side to allow for rapid access.

The WAS Single Open M4 5.56mm is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and FG.



£14.95

DOUBLE 9MM POUCH

With primary mags covered by a plentiful array of pouches, sidearms are equally catered for by the Double 9mm pouch, capable of containing two double or single stack magazines from popular pistols like the Sig P226 and the Glock 17. Secure, fold-back velcro flaps give unhindered access to smaller magazines especially when situated in front of primary mag pouches.

The WAS Double 9mm is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and FG.



£109.94

DCS PLATE CARRIER

The DCS or "Dynamic Combat System" plate carrier is the perfect foundation for a modern fighting load. Styled along the lines of SF-preferred low profile plate carriers, the DCS is minimal and compact, ideal for vehicle bound operations or simply high mobility use. Instead of an all-covering, smothering body armour system, the DCS utilises plate pockets cut close to the contours of the armour panels and a cummerbund system give the capacity to house more protection. MOLLE webbing covers much of the carrier allowing for a surprising amount to be carried but in a manageable, accessible manner. The high cut of the plate carrier makes it ideal for teaming up with a battle belt system for comfortable, high capacity load outs.

The DCS Plate Carrier is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and FG.

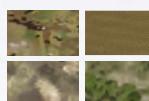


£14.95

LARGE ADMIN POUCH

The large Admin pouch is an ideal organisational tool and is intended to be mounted high on the chest of a rig or plate carrier. The main document pocket uses a velcro flapped lid and is sized for critical equipment like a maps, briefing documents or notepads and this is augmented by a single utility pouch, perfect for a flash light. These items are essential for team leaders or even just personal administration during longer more structured games. What's more, the outside of the admin pouch provides ample space for morale or ID patches.

The WAS Large Admin Pouch is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and A-TACS FG.



**WARRIOR
ASSAULT SYSTEMS**

£24.95

LARGE ROLL-UP DUMP POUCH GEN. 2

The Dump Pouch is a critical part of an effective load out and makes magazine changes far more efficient. Instead of fighting to refit a spent magazine into a pouch, it can simply be dropped into the large space provided by the Dump Pouch and dealt with when the pressure is off. A good dump pouch is also great for carrying large or unusual items and objectives and are often used by teams when searching for valuable intel or objectives. The WAS Roll-Up Pouch stows neatly away when not in use and can be deployed at a moment's notice with a single, one-handed motion. It can be fitted to a MOLLE platform or a belt.

The WAS Large Roll-Up Dump Pouch Gen. 2 is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and FG.



£13.95

SINGLE M4 5.56MM

Despite its name, the WAS Single M4 5.56mm pouch actually holds 2 magazines. It's designed to partner with the other flap topped M4 pouches in order to tailor your rig to specification. The retention is the same as with the triple version, with a flapped lid and also an elastic mid-band to keep the contents secure and stable.

Most users fit one of these pouches either side of their more central pouches in order to increase capacity and also maintain the use of the central flap, essential for fitting and removing the plate carrier when using a cummerbund. Although intended for use with 5.56mm magazines for the M4, it's possible to improvise and fit a single, larger magazine into these pouches. A G36 or AK magazine will go in but will not double stack.

The WAS Single M4 5.56mm is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and A-TACS FG.



£17.84

MEDIUM MOLLE UTILITY POUCH

A Utility Pouch is just that, a pouch that is useful for holding useful items. The Medium MOLLE Utility Pouch fulfills that role with a well thought-out design and proportion. Sized to take anything from MRE packs to a speedloader, bag of BBs and a Mars Bar, you'll be able to securely carry those little extras. Internally, dividers allow you to separate items and externally MOLLE webbing allows you to mount on and around the pouch. Most users prefer to position this pouch on their strong side and use it to store non-critical items.

The WAS Medium MOLLE Utility Pouch is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and A-TACS FG.



£19.94

TRIPLE OPEN M4 5.56MM

For a lower profile load out, the Triple Open 5.56mm pouch from WAS is a great option. Instead of double stacking magazines on the front, you get rapid access to a single layer of three. There's MOLLE webbing on the front to add extra pouches if you so wish, but with just these on your chest, you'll be able to get low to the ground and closer to walls and obstacles. Retention is provided by means of Bungee topper that stretch up and over the top of each magazine, keeping them secure and still meaning minimal risk of loss and no noise at all. If your plate carrier has a kangaroo style pouch already and you want to add capacity, this pouch is an ideal addition. It is equally at home on a chest rig for a super slim-line option. The WAS Triple Open M4 5.56mm is made from genuine 1000d Cordura and is available in Multicam, Coyote Brown, A-TACS AU and FG.

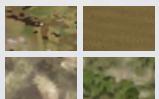


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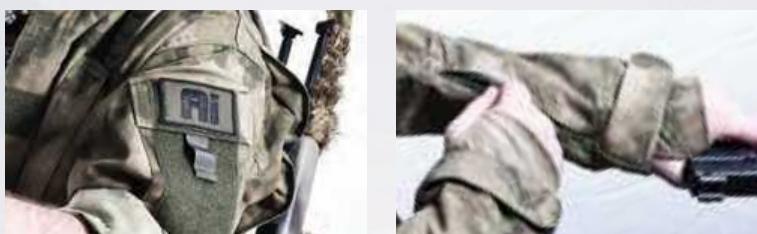
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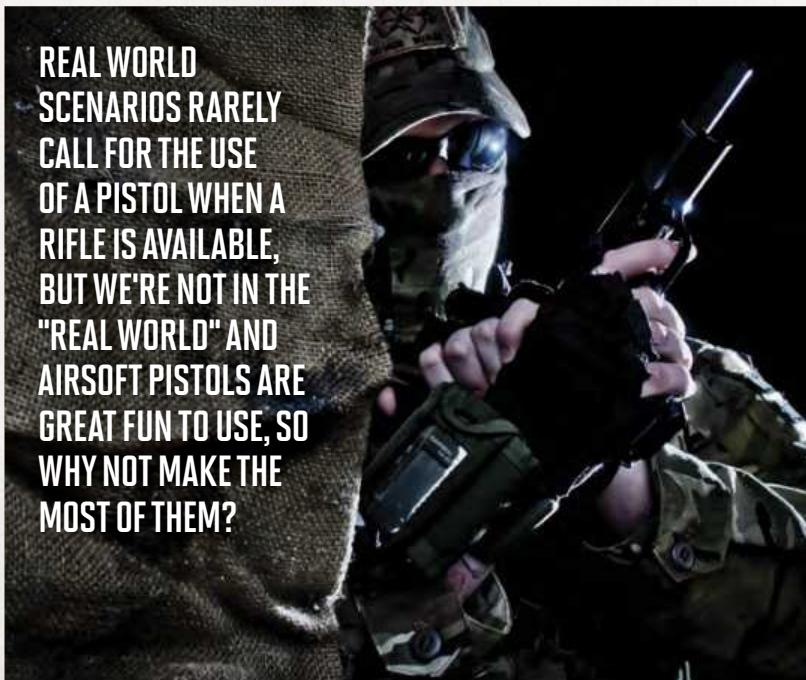
WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO GO... PISTOLS ONLY?

THERE'S ALWAYS THAT ONE CRAZY MOFO THAT DOES IT, USUALLY AT THE END OF THE DAY WHEN EVERYONE IS GETTING TIRED AND ARMS ARE HEAVY. "IT" REFERS TO DOWNING HIS RIFLE AND RUNNING FULL TILT AT THE ENEMY ARMED ONLY WITH A PISTOL. "PISTOLS ONLY" SEEMS TO BE A BYWORD FOR GOING BALLS OUT AND TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY WITH A RECKLESS AND FOOLHARDY MOVE THAT JUST MIGHT WORK IF YOU ARE LUCKY, FAST OR DUMB ENOUGH. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT THOUGH, WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES? YOU GET HIT BY A FEW BBS AND THEN RESPAWN BEFORE HAVING ANOTHER BASH AT IT? MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL BE GOING PISTOLS ONLY A BIT MORE OFTEN...

Airsoft pistols are an often collected but much overlooked skirmish tool. We all probably have just as many pistols as we do rifles but if you are anything like myself, they mostly languish rarely used inside their holsters or boxes on shelves or if they are lucky, strapped to your hip for a bit of a walk around a skirmish field for the day, whilst you are busy shooting your rifle. If the particular pistol is REALLY lucky, it might get brandished, cocked with purpose, maybe even pointed in the direction of a perceived threat for a few seconds and then probably put neatly away again without a shot fired.

I was once told that a pistol, in a real steel situation, with real bullets and all, should be viewed as not a lot more than an exaggerated knife when there is a rifle to rely on and if things should get down to the point where you ditch your long gun and start blasting of rounds with your 9mm, things are probably quite dire.

REAL WORLD SCENARIOS RARELY CALL FOR THE USE OF A PISTOL WHEN A RIFLE IS AVAILABLE, BUT WE'RE NOT IN THE "REAL WORLD" AND AIRSOFT PISTOLS ARE GREAT FUN TO USE, SO WHY NOT MAKE THE MOST OF THEM?



THE DOWNSIDES

The issue is, with pistols in an airsoft scenario, by not using them you are losing out on some of the most realistic, most affordable and most exciting airsoft experiences you could wish for. Sure, we all love our AEGs and their reliable, steady and consistent 340fps output, comfortably blasting BBS one after the other on semi-automatic or fully automatic modes from a magazine of up to about 350 rounds in capacity... They are a comforter, a safety net. "My trusty rifle has plenty of range and more than enough ammo to make up for any shortcomings in accuracy". Hell, even if the entire enemy team walk around that corner, you are probably carrying enough ammo to give each one of them two in every limb and one for good measure. With your rifle, you are a walking, man-sized artillery battery that's going to (hopefully) shoot on demand, whether in semi auto or in full auto "Oh my god make all the bad men go away" mode...





With a pistol, this isn't quite the case. Firstly, I think there's a massive mind game being played. Airsofters, by our very nature, tend to feel happier when we have a giant, long gun with a suppressor and a scope and a bipod and a coffee machine, well, maybe not that far, but all the attachments give us a certain degree of comfort and confidence. We think to ourselves "I have these tools to deal with this situation". With a pistol, well, it's pretty simple and basic isn't it? You have a small gun. It's comparatively light and it's comparatively tiny. In fact you can probably attach your pistol to your rifle and not really even notice the difference! The pistol might look cool sitting there on your desk, or strapped to your hip but it's all show and no go... As the mighty Bullet Tooth Tony, played by Vinny Jones in Snatch alluded, a replica pistol doesn't do much to... Ahem... Make your balls grow. When everyone is on the skirmish field swinging about their M4s and their AKs, you and your Glock are probably going to feel like you are the little kid that accidentally strayed into the big kid's playground and just like back at school, a big, rough leathery football is about to come hurtling at your head at any moment. We don't often go pistols only because it's a mind game...

There's also a practical element as to why pistols are often eschewed in favour of a more traditional primary weapon and that's simply because it's a little bit harder to shoot a pistol accurately for most people. A shorter sight base and a lack of a supporting stock make for a less than ideal position to take potshots from over long range. Sure, with a bit of practice you can get reasonably proficient but you are definitely starting from a disadvantaged position.

Other practical aspects that put would-be pistol bandits off is the limited capacity and indeed the weight of the magazines you require. That said, they are not that far shy of GBBR magazines in terms of the amount of BBs they hold and if anything, they are lighter than those. Again, the, mental block of everything being physically smaller and therefore less well equipped is likely to be a major factor. When all is said and done though, pistols fire the same BBs as any other airsoft gun and in the case of a decent one, with just as much velocity and range.



WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO GO... PISTOLS ONLY?



DON'T OVER COMPLICATE YOUR HANDGUN-BASED LOAD OUT. IT'S EASY TO BOG YOUR PISTOL'S PROWESS DOWN IN BOLT-ON JUNK WHICH CAN REALLY SAP THE PERFORMANCE AND RELIABILITY.

THE POSITIVES

So beyond not necessarily feeling like you are packing much firepower and a low ammo capacity there's not really that much holding the pistol back and the major benefits really do shine through if you let them. For a start, pistols are pretty cheap. Yeah, you can spend a bomb on them, loads of money... Metal this, upgrade that, aftermarket the other, but you don't need to. To be honest, most decent pistols actually shoot just as well straight out of the box, just gas them up and go, and that leads us nicely to the next point.

Gas pistols are obviously gas powered and you will be hard pressed to find an airsoft replica that works in as tactile and realistic a manner as a gas blowback pistol. In fact, short of ejecting a spent cartridge each cycle, gas pistols are pretty much identical in operation to their real steel counterparts apart from the fact you'll get a single shot out of them on an empty chamber... No biggie. You get "recoil", you get blowback, you even get jams from time to time that you have to clear. Some even say that the effective range of an airsoft pistol is about the same as the effective range you'd be shooting a real pistol too so it's arguable that pistol-only airsoft is about as realistic as it gets.

As mentioned before, the size and weight of a pistol is a massive boon. It's not going to weigh you down and hell, you can carry two or even three if you fancy although shooting more than one at any one time isn't generally recommended, you are not Jet Li, ok? Technically, with a pistol you should be able to move faster, get through tighter spots, shoot from more advantageous positions and take

cover more effectively. To facilitate this though, you will need some sort of decent, secure carrying solution. A bag, belt rig or chest rig would be ideal and you need it to work well to retain the weight of a pistol magazine.

So on the whole, a pistol is an easy weapon to move with that unobtrusive, light and actually pretty cost effective and we probably don't make as much use of them as we should do because we collectively don't have the minerals to do so and would rather hide behind our big rifles and high quantities of loaded ammo... That's an inflammatory statement if ever we have published one, but it's probably true!

Next time you find yourself really struggling to get "in" the game, I think we should all remember what I've just written though. It's all too easy make excuses for not getting in the mix and get overly concerned about taking hits. Maybe we should all start whipping out our pistols a little more and making an effort to make them count in the close confines of the objective building, bunker or general vicinity. On the occasion I have done so, I can honestly say I've had a heart-pounding, adrenaline pumping few minutes of totally satisfying carnage. After all, the best of airsoft isn't in funnelling hundreds of BBs towards your target with reckless abandon, in fact that just brings out the worst in people, they start to complain about overkill, people get hurt and grump. Airsoft is coolest when you are double tapping your way, room to room, target to target, making each BB count and playing, well, like you know what you are doing. Personally I think "pistols only" really encourages this kind of play and I'd like to see more of it.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A PISTOL

1 SLIDE

Putting metal kits on a pistol is, great to make it feel and sound real but on the whole it makes them shoot like crap in comparison to a lightweight plastic slide. Want a reliable, year round pistol? Most of the time you are best off with a nice all plastic Marui... There, I said it... Write in and complain if you disagree!

2 SIGHTS

Most pistols have built-in sights. Low light or glow sights are a great addition if you expect to be using your gun in the gloomy confines of building interiors. You can buy ready made items or with a little DIY effort and some glow in the dark paint, you can make your own!

3 HOLSTER

Holstering your pistol is essential, if you think about it, it's pretty much the equivalent of a sling for your rifle if you are going to free up your hands, you are going to need one. A good holster is invaluable and you need it to hold your weapon securely but also allow rapid access as well as speedy re-holstering. Kydex moulded holsters are great for this!

4 MAGAZINES

You need a pistol to have spare magazines. As a rule of thumb 3 is just about enough if you are economical but ideally you'll want more to keep you shooting longer. You want reliable magazines at that, ones that hold BBs securely without them spilling all over the place when you are reloading. Fortunately most modern pistols are pretty good in this respect.

5 ACCESSORIES

Think long and hard about bolt-ons for your pistol. Is it really going to add anything or is it going to just make your pistol less effective? Suppressors rarely do anything to hush a GBB pistol, the current trend for adding extra sights just seems to make the slide heavier. A weapon light is well justified but beware that this can have an effect on how your pistol holsters.

6 RELIABILITY

You can't quite put your finger on where this attribute lies, but one thing is for certain, you need your pistol to be reliable and consistent if you are going to use it as your primary weapon. At the very least you want it to shoot every time you pull the trigger and you want the slide to lock back when the mag is empty. Anything less just won't cut it.



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416-CQB VS THE 416-C

UMAREX ARE THE OFFICIAL LICENSE HOLDER FOR HECKLER & KOCH AND RIGHT NOW THE HK416 PLATFORM IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST ASSAULT RIFLE VARIANTS AROUND. COMING IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT GUISES, WE ARE GOING TO PIT THE HK 416C AND THE HK 416CQB REPLICAS HEAD-TO-HEAD TO SEE WHICH ONE COMES OUT ON TOP!

HK 416-CQB

The HK416 is Heckler & Koch's take on the M16/M4 design complete with their revisions and enhancements. Externally, it's not a massive departure from what you usually get in a rifle of this kind, but one of the main changes they made was to replace the original design's direct gas impingement system (in short the bolt being pushed back by the propellant gases from a bullet being fired directly) with a piston design. In test it's claimed that this design makes the gun much less prone to carbon fouling, malfunction and overheating.

As you would expect from a weapon of this price, it's what is commonly termed "full metal" as in everything that you would expect to find on a real HK416 that is made of metal is also a metal of sorts on the replica. The heart of the gun is a chunky, angular receiver. The lower is almost identical to the standard M4 design except the magazine well is actually longer. It's cut almost parallel with the trigger guard

as opposed to the sharper angle of the M4. The controls, the mag release and safety/fire selector are in the same position as that of an M4 but the familiar HK pictograms denote the fire mode. Disappointingly, the selector is not ambidextrous as featured on the current real steel version and is only present on the left hand side of the gun.

The bolt catch is also present on the left hand side of the receiver and is functional on the replica, not in the sense it locks the bolt back when the magazine is empty, but in that it will hold the mock bolt open for you to adjust the hop. It's a helpful feature but perhaps a little misleading compared to the advanced features some newer AEGs are equipped with. That said it's still childishly satisfying to slap the bolt catch and have the mock bolt cover shoot forward into place.

The upper receiver is again quite similar to that of the standard flat top, railed M4, although the 416 upper is a little taller by about 4-5mm at the most. This is to complete the continuous upper rail when mated with the rail unit that mounts onto the front of the gun, which is also a little taller to house the piston system previously mentioned. The upper houses the mock charging handle that only serves to retract

the bolt cover on this replica, and there's also a forward assist button that although is moveable has no function.

The rail unit that mounts to the front of the receiver is a one-piece aluminium unit that's finely and crisply machined. It mounts to a special barrel nut using just one cross bolt and a notch that's located in a corresponding groove in the front of the receiver. It's remarkably simple, easy to install and remove and is amongst the most solid of all the rail solutions on any AEG. There's no need to even remove any of the rail-mounted accessories, talking of which, sighting is taken care of by clamp-on iron sights. The front being a half hooded post and the rear being one of HK's cylindrical multi-aperture sights suitable for use at a multitude of ranges. Longer version of the 416 seem to still use the spindly looking fold-up front sight that attaches to the gas block, but in honestly we much prefer the chunky, aggressive look of this fixed, clamp-on versions although it's probably a given that the vast majority of 416s will be adorned with Eotech-style similar.

The barrel inside the RIS is a thick, 10", one piece all metal item and is fitted with a birdcage style metal flash hider. Also mounted to the barrel is the HK416 gas block with integrated sling points and bayonet lug, onto which the mock gas piston system is fitted. It's a crying shame this part of the AEG is mostly covered by the RIS as it is beautifully made from machined metal. Not only does it look pretty but it's also fully articulated, you can move all the parts that are supposed to move.

At the rear of the gun is a regular sized metal buffer tube onto which an HK trademarked, rubber butted club-foot storage stock is fitted,





HEAD TO HEAD BATTLE

in line with the model fitted to the real steel 416. The butt pad twists off of the stock to reveal ample storage space for crane-style battery packs. If you so desired, there's plenty of space for a LiPo pack to be stored in the buffer tube itself so if you don't like the standard stock, you have options.

The pistol grip fitted to the weapon is, much like the 417D, a HK V4 grip complete with the steeper angle. The presence of this grip brings us neatly on to the internals of the gun, something which we thought would vary from the standard V2 design you'd expect to find inside a weapon of this design and proportion, although they don't, much to our surprise.

HK 416-C

If the 416D is the standard, middle of the road assault rifle the 416C is certainly the concealable, compact and easily stowed option. There are much smaller guns out there. There are much smaller guns in HK's catalogue, but from a military perspective the 416C has a few strengths. Weapons manufacturers are obviously in the business of selling guns to people that have some need for them and clearly a large military organisation is a plump and juicy prize... They need a LOT of guns. Pretty much everyone on the front line has a gun of some sort, from straight up infantry through to helicopter and tank crews.

As cool as they are though, there's not much space inside a tank or even a helicopter when you take into account ammo, fuel, passengers and their equipment so the smaller everything

is, the better. For this reason, tank crews and pilots had pistols to look after their business if things went south, but although they are better than trying to fend off the enemy with the spork from an MRE pack, they are still no match for rifles, thusly the concept of the Personal Defence Weapon was born.

With a successful lineage of short shooters behind them, and the recent acclaim of the 416 gas piston system H&K were the go-to choice for this job and the 416C is a physical representation of the heritage of the arms maker. It's a combination of the gas piston system found inside the 416 with a stock rather reminiscent of the HK53, a weapon favoured by British CP teams. It's unlikely that the UKSF would have wanted to employ the HK416C as a vehicle crew PDW, but moreover would have used it to replace the ageing armoury and simplify the logistics by using a weapon that used the same magazines, therefore the same pouches, kit and equipment.

Were does that leave us as airsofters then? All our guns fore the same ammo or thereabouts but they don't all use the same magazines. The 416C is an M4-based, M4 magazine compatible gun that's ideal for CQB. It's certainly not alone in that category as there are a lot of guns that fit the bill but if you're a die-hard H&K fan or collector or want something to compliment a certain load out, this is an interesting option.

The gun is built around a receiver that we seem to be getting quite familiar with, it's VFC's crispy formed, dark grey/blue HK trademarked product, modeled closely after the original HK offering. Markings aside, this is identical to the one you'll find on the other 5.56 models in the line-up and that's no bad thing. The lower is

resplendent in officially licensed, relevant information and markings, including the characteristic red and white pictogram fire selector indicators. The rest of the controls are identical to the VFC-made Umarex 416D, positive in use and well crafted. The mock bolt cover again locks back when the charging handle is pulled, which, although makes assembling the gun a little more complex allows the more frequent act of adjusting the hop to be carried out with ease. The pistol grip is identical to the 416D one, it's a tough, textured polymer and the hump-back design sits somewhat more vertically than the M4/16 design.

Up front the proprietary RIS rail for the 416 is identical to the D model except it's cut shorter and the bolt that holds the rail in place has an allen head instead of the cross head we found on the longer gun. The lower rail houses a combined hand-stop (to prevent the supporting hand from wavering in front of the muzzle) and alternative sling point at the extreme muzzle end, but this is a removable component and can be taken off to allow fitment of alternative grips and accessories. The rail still "keys" in to the upper receiver creating one of the most rigid free-float front ends available.

The 416C barrel is of course shorter to match the shorter RIS and it terminates in a crisply machined, steel, 4-pronged flash hider which is closer to that of the G36 than it is to the birdcage M4-style one on the longer 416 variants. The gas block is also slightly modified and has no bayonet



VS.



HEAD TO HEAD

HK
HECKLER & KOCH

lug, it still has the mock regulator and the original fold-down 416 front sight is present, unlike the other versions available that have MP5-style RIS mounted half-hooded post sights. This compliments the unique and very low profile folding rear sight that is perched on the receiver rail.

The back end of the gun is where things get rather interesting. The unique 416C sliding stock and shortened buffer tube assembly resides out here and it's what gives the gun much of its character. The buffer tube itself fits the rear of the gun much like any other AEG part, although it is machined to accept the two rods that form the length of the sliding stock. A catch allows users to extend the stock out to two positions where once fixed, it's actually rather solid. The stock buttpiece has a comparatively tiny footprint on the shoulder compared to the expansive area that the 416D stock and the 417 stock makes contact over and with this replica, it actually makes shouldering in an assault vest rather easy. If this thing had recoil like the real thing though, I can't imagine how comfortable it would be to shoot for very long.

So that's that then. No surprises here. VFC have produced another fine replica complete with high quality, exquisitely finished components all assembled in good order. Job done you might think, but hang on a second... Where does the battery go? There's no room inside that RIS rail and well, you'd struggle to get a couple of AA batteries, let alone a LiPo in that buffer tube space. To combat this, things have gone a bit retro and an external battery box is required to wire up and store the power supply. Unfortunately the solution supplied is

a rather nasty feeling, pretty awkward black dummy PEQ15, which certainly stores the battery OK, but seems a little awkward on this gun. Given that everything else is rather realistic and well built, it just seems a bit, well, lacking to put a non-functioning plastic PEQ on the side of the gun.

Being fair, there's not anywhere else to store the battery of the gun with the selection of



H&K 416-CQB

VITAL STATS

- MANUFACTURER: VFC/Umarex
- VELOCITY: 340fps on .20g BB
- BATTERIES: 7.4v 20C LiPo
- LENGTH: 700-780mm extended
- WEIGHT: 3kg
- CAPACITY: 300rnd Hi-Cap Magazine
- PRICE: £425.99



components used but eying it up, we reckon that if the barrel had a thinner profile in the middle, which would be hidden by the RIS, you might be able to get a decent sized split pack 7.4v LiPo in there. It's not like the manufacturer are pulling Marui's old trick and not even acknowledging LiPo technology either, because there aren't any other types of battery that would fit in the PEQ box.



H&K 416-C

VITAL STATS

- MANUFACTURER: VFC/Umarex
- VELOCITY: 340fps on .20g BB
- BATTERIES: 7.4v LiPo (PEQ box sized)
- LENGTH: 575-700mm
- WEIGHT: 2.9kg
- CAPACITY: 300rnd Hi-Cap Magazine
- PRICE: £399.99



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JPC VS CPC CRYE PRECISION



BY S23: GEAR MONKEY

THIS MONTH OUR RESIDENT GEAR MONKEY STEPS UP TO THE PLATE WITH AN INSIGHTFUL LOOK AT TWO OF THE MOST POPULAR PLATE CARRIERS ON TODAY'S MARKET, FROM ONE OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE BUSINESS, CRYE PRECISION. PITTING THE LIGHTWEIGHT, LOW DRAG JPC AGAINST THE LARGER AND MORE EXPANSIVE CPC WITH SOME REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE, HE IS LOOKING TO GUIDE YOU ON WHAT MAKES THE BEST CHOICE AND HOW BEST TO EMPLOY THESE TWO DIFFERENT PIECES OF KIT.

Body armour, on which entire books could be dedicated to the history of, development and variation, is by its very nature an overwhelming topic. Here I'll seek to explain why I use these two particular carriers, Crye Precision's Jumpable Plate Carrier and the CAGE Plate Carrier.

It is often argued, regardless of how a player sets up a plate carrier, by virtue of the games non-lethality they are surplus to requirements and serve only as 'form' over 'function'... However, that's not entirely true as I dissect these particular two.

Using armour regularly in the real world, I've seen a wide plethora of vests pass through my 'locker' over the years, offering everything from enhanced torso coverage, load bearing or even clearly disguised in the form of a jacket. Sadly, cost or aesthetics have sometimes driven procurement over protection.

With that experience in mind, with the underlying ethos of 'train how you fight' and further driven by an insatiable Cordura addiction I set about procuring in my opinion two of the best plate carriers which met my needs.

Previously while in the pursuit of the venerable 'pouch perfect' load out I'd covered the gamut of carriers from SDS' OTV, TAG's Spartan Gen I, Point Blanks IBA and even Eagles RRV with rear plate carrier and Lo Vis vest. All of which, came with a variety of issues such as weight, restricting shooting posture or lack of load bearing capability. Yet, that aside they all had their merits and it's the pros and cons that allowed me to make an informed choice on upgrading.



1 THE JPC (JUMPABLE PLATE CARRIER)

I had loosely been looking at plate carrier set ups to reduce profile, weight and even complexity. Previous incarnations had either been AO specific or performed better in some topographies than others.

Well, having already found not only an overall effective camouflage in Crye's Multicam, but an enhanced concealment over traditional patterns. It was fairly apparent that Multicam would be the optioned pattern.

I'd been researching a lot of products by London Bridge Trading, whose extensive range, whilst all excellent, yet again seemed to be specifically tailored to individual mission specifics.

First Spear, also subject to extensive reading again seem to have several great products, specifically Strandhogg. I felt this was for me personally a step back towards the likes of the CIRAS in it's size and coverage and possibly

would not offer the level of articulation and movement I was seeking.

I even previously ran an Eagle Industries EPC which, whilst a great Plate Carrier retained a lot of bulk and thus felt restrictive to really upping the speed and getting 'into the fight'... Well, this brought me back to the creators of the camouflage that led the revolution, Crye!!!

Initial options, when choosing this carrier, included the Crye Cage Plate Carrier (CPC) and the Adaptive Vest System (AVS). I must confess the AVS seemed to straddle unsuccessfully, the middle ground of what I was looking for...

The CPC, again is an amazing piece of kit but seemed to step outside of my own personal brief and whilst streamlined it seemed to overreach what I required in this instance. Thus, I arrived at the Jumpable Plate Carrier (JPC). Its minimalist profile, simple snag-free design, yet retaining sufficient 'protective coverage' put this heads above the competition... Lightweight,

even when fully loaded with magazines, plates and soft armour this struggles to reach over double figures in weight (Lbs).

The two plate panels are initially twinned together by two adjustable Velcro straps, covered by soft Multicam'd Tweave shoulder pads are easily manipulated to get the plates sitting at the right height, and thusly not only providing optimum comfort and utility, but more importantly in the real world coverage of the vital areas of the torso.

The panels are Cordura front facing and on the body facing reverse, a Tweave, again providing a more comfortable aesthetic, and has been meshed at the top to reduce heat and promote air circulation. Both the front and rear have generous amounts of MOLLE real estate, however apart from the rear being pouched out - I opted to only use the proprietary magazine shingle integral to the vest adding on a double pistol magazine pouch to the weak side.



The front plate has a generous amount of Velcro, also bar tacked so pouches can be threaded through, naturally, I opted to stick a patch on there... A big one!!! Behind that though, is an interior pocket, with three elasticated loops, which I use to store additional pistol magazines. A great concealed storage idea, easily accessible and reduces profile and snagging of kit.

All of the additional pouches I would traditionally front load a PC with got moved off and down onto the MRB (Modular Riggers Belt)

Well, this is all secured together by it's proprietary stiffened Airlite cummerbund, which is initially secured through the rear panels MOLLE and brought around the front and secured via Velcro underneath the fronts magazine pouches.

I additionally added not only the MBITR Radio pouches, which can be used for magazines but the two side plate panels. Obviously in the real world these quite rightly upscale the plate carriers protectiveness forward facing any threat, and an additional complete Airlite side plate set covering the cummerbund completely can be procured. However, if circumstances prior to any real world deployment dictated such an upscale in armour I'd be opting to use the CPC. But, it is an option and a well considered thought process that covers such modularity.

Such minimalism, yet still offering the relevant level of protection is truly an asset of the JPC, more over it seamlessly works with under armour shirts or even heavier garments, weather dependent, without losing its functionality.

It's proven to carry mission critical equipment, yet given me optimum articulation and movement and specifically allowed me to get low and prone to see best use of cover either for protection or concealment.

Either in the cold or heat, by aiding cooling or allowing correct use in conjunction with other weather gear its proven it's modularity and firmly made itself at home within my gear collection.

It's been wet, dirty and dusty and hasn't been particularly well cared for or taken to anywhere particularly nice, thusly, testament to the quality of construction and materials used it still looks like it's virtually fresh out of the box ...

A great piece of kit, that effectively met the very unique specifics of my personal brief. Still flexible enough to meet even some of the most demanding circumstances.



THE CAGE PLATE CARRIER

2 Crye's JPC, serves me well, and aside from dirt and a few scuffs is going as strong as the day I received it. I had found however, its ability to significantly load carry over considerably longer 'games' was somewhat lacking, and often found myself having a day sack along, left at a 'laying up' point to reload and replenish items expended in the field.

To be fair, it was never intended to be used as such, and its original brief was to increase my mobility and lower my profile on 'Direct Action' (DA) games.

Well, whilst idle I started to extrapolate possible solutions which would help increase 'load bearing capability' yet give me the punch required when changing gears into DA segments.

I immediately started taking a long hard look the CAGE Plate Carrier (CAGE - Crye Assault GEar). This is somewhat streamlined version of the original CAGE Armor Chassis offering a slightly lower profile and weight reduction.

I'll firstly talk a little about the CPC. It essentially is built around an internal suspension system which can be adjusted to fit the user's shape and size and is offset for comfort with eight varying sized pads all of which can be moved or removed to the user's preferred fit and form.

This is overlaid by two modular plate bags which hold solid state armour and soft armour backing. All of which is secured by a dual cummerbund which can additionally take soft armour and plates. These also feature two pockets for either radios and/or magazines. The front plate like the rear is covered with a generous amount of MOLLE for attaching additional pouches, but also features a kangaroo pouch to take three 5.56 magazines and an admin pouch in the top of the bag for quick access to either pens, chem lights, note books and so on and so forth...

I was exceptionally impressed with its fit and form, found it very easy to adjust and modify to make for a very comfortable wear and instantly felt familiar and intuitive to use.

Initially as I started to position additional pouches and accessories, as pretty much everything I use gets placed to my left 'weak' side - I started to feel it become cluttered and overloaded. After discussing at length with a very reputable and knowledgeable source I reorganised my belt load bearing equipment

(LBE) to drive forward the more streamlined 'function over form' ethos.

Whilst not completely in a state where I'd call it complete, I've started to get nearer to a more usable and functional position that's practical and intuitive to use.

I worked around this conundrum by starting move pouches around and working out best placement in order of priority. Slowly but a little more 'brutal' in minimising what I was prepared to carry.

I really put a lot of thought into how much I needed in the field, and what could be left behind or acquired slow time when appropriate.

It's laughable, but at one point I was really pushing for between four and six secondary magazines across the board. Despite whatever justifications I sought to keep these it just didn't work and pushed ahead with streamlining down to two, with an admin load on the belt.

Moving onward, the rear plate bag has been complimented with a 'Type C' back panel, allowing for the carry of a hydration bladder, and overlaid with an IFAK, Admin Pouch and two Smoke Pouches for team mates.

This can all be very quickly unzipped and removed for reduction of weight or load bearing, perhaps when using a day sack or simply for purposes of storage.

Well, after several long weeks of sitting in storage awaiting completion the CPC finally got an outing over two extended days at a large urban event.

Even better it was unseasonably clement, so I was intrigued to find out how hot it'd be whilst worn and how it would play out fully loaded ...

In a word, I was amazed - the suspension system and pads distribute the weight, or rather offset it evenly across the shoulders and torso. It's segmented interior and the channels sitting between the rear plate allow for air to flow through and further dissipate heat.

Well, over two days of high impact urban DA style play, it easily endured the rigors of crashing through disused buildings, climbing obstacles and has returned with little to no signs of wear or tear.

It's in my estimation a great value plate carrier, with an incredible scope for modularity and load bearing and when faced with 'higher threat' levels in DA style games this proves an above adequate solution.

In comparison, for days when I really need to be flight on my feet I can see the JPC still being brought out on occasion. Particular where vehicles are being used, if only that the CPC increases your profile to the point, when seated in a vehicle you'll take up a lot of room...

FINAL THOUGHTS

To summarise a great plate carrier, user friendly, instantly usable out of the box and highly customisable - I'd be hard pushed to imagine how Crye could really improve on this innovative design.



CRYE PRECISION

Ai STAFF SHOOTERS

MAXPEDITION ROLY-POLY

STAFF SHOOTERS HAS BEEN A STAPLE INSIDE Ai MAGAZINE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME NOW, BUT THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY GUNS THAT WE HAVE TO SHOW YOU. TO AVOID GOING OVER TOO MUCH OLD GROUND, WE WANTED TO HEAD IN A NEW DIRECTION FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS. A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A REST THEY SAY! INSTEAD OF GUNS, EACH MEMBER OF STAFF IS GOING TO SHOW OFF THEIR OLDEST, MOST DEPENDABLE PIECE OF GEAR OR KIT AND EXPLAIN WHY IT IS THAT THEY STILL HAVE IT AND HOW USEFUL IT HAS PROVED TO BE. FIRST UP IS EDITOR BEN WEBB AND HIS TRUSTY MAXPEDITION ROLL-UP DUMP POUCH.

Dump pouches are an incredibly useful piece of kit to add to your load out and they come in so handy, and once you have used one you will never be able to go back. Over the years there have been countless efforts as different dump pouch designs, all with the simple aim of giving you somewhere to quickly but reasonably securely drop an item that you are no longer using, mostly empty magazines.

Designs have ranged from the gigantic sack-like efforts of some manufacturers to the wafer thin, storable Blue Force Gear products. They look completely different, work in slightly different ways and cost different amounts but they all share the same common purpose and depending how you get on with them, you will enjoy varying degrees of success.

Personally, I love the BFG Ten-Speed SSE Pouch in concept. It was lightweight, negligible in mass and probably clocked in at less than the mud stuck to the bottom of your shoe. It took up less room than some velcro patches and it was quick to deploy when you needed

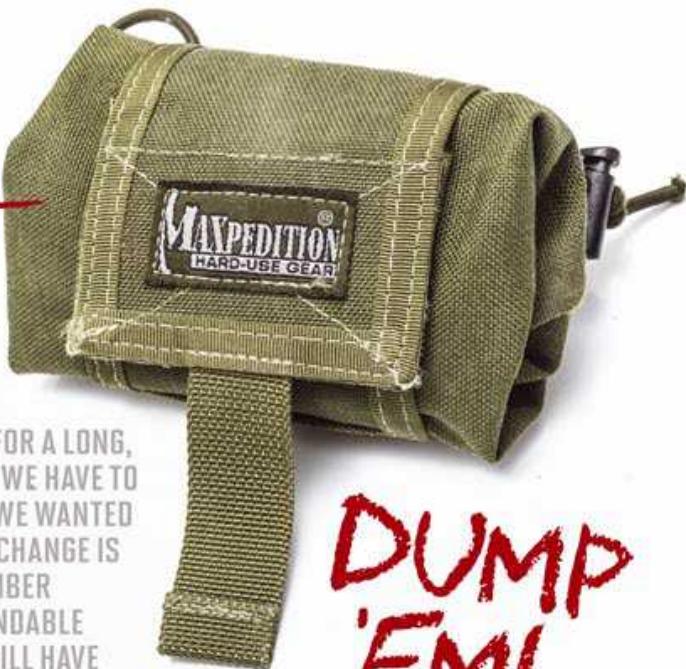
it. My main beef though, was how floppy the opening aperture was. Ideally I wanted a dump pouch that would hold itself open, a bit like a hip-mounted bucket, to allow me to sling my spent mags in without taking my eyes off the prize and the BFG effort couldn't provide me with this.

It was at this time I realised my trusty Maxpedition Roly-Poly Dump Pouch was going to be called into service. Originally I'm pretty sure my good friend Jamie purchased it for me as a gift on my birthday from Tactical Kit. In terms of design, Maxpedition called on their experience of the wider outdoor market to produce a very versatile item here. Taking hints from climbing chalk bags, the Roll-Up pouch is made from solid Cordura and is intended to be used as a belt mounted pouch, a MOLLE mounted pouch or even using the provided plastic clips, a pouch that can attach directly to your trousers' belt loops. That in itself is a bit of genius. Sold to be used as a general storage pouch, the RollyPoly stows away neatly, not as compact as the BFG

effort but small enough and can even be hastily sealed with an elastic shock cord toggle and also a velcro "lid" flap.

It accepts a water bottle, other junk you might pick up or about 6-7 full size M4 magazines when fully loaded and it's tough Cordura material has been abused, scraped, dragged about and abraded more than any other piece of kit I own but the whole thing looks almost like new still. It's that stiff Cordura that actually makes the pouch so useful because it has a bit of structure in itself and holds its shape without being too floppy.

With all my personal load outs over the last few years, you will have undoubtedly seen this green pouch strapped somewhere on my person. It's been a trusty and reliable piece of kit and I have yet to find something that surpasses it in terms of function and utility.



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WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS



£69.95 GUNFIGHTER BELT

AT THE RECENT A1500 EVENT WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF HOSTING UK TACTICAL'S MOBILE RETAIL UNIT TO ALLOW GAMERS THE CHANCE TO CHECK OUT THEIR WARES AND PICK UP SOME NEW GOODIES IF THEY SO WISHED. ON DISPLAY ALONGSIDE OTHER ITEMS WAS A WHOLE HOST OF THE WARRIOR ASSAULT SYSTEMS LINE, AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY IN THE UK VIA UK TACTICAL.

During some downtime on the Saturday evening I took the opportunity to head over to have a chat with the man behind UK Tactical, Mark, and chat kit. We looked over a few items and discussed the various features and design merits along with our own preferences for certain pieces of gear. We got onto the subject of belt rigs and I confessed that I had never found one that I felt was particularly suited to my own requirements and frankly, I felt encumbered by most designs. Keen to push the merits of the latest WAS line-up, Mark pointed me in the direction of their new Gunfighter belt kit which looked a little bit different from the stuff I had tried in the past.

My major complaints regarding belt rigs are based on bulk and how the whole things can slip, rotate and generally feel like you are wearing an adult sized nappy. I also don't really like the idea of having to change the sort of holsters used, plus a MOLLE system means whatever you do choose will project out further from your body regardless.

These complaints were the very reason that mark pointed me towards the Gunfighter belt and its innovative design. See, it's not just a sleeve with a belt that runs through it like many others. These can be a bit of an issue as they end up bulky and difficult to adjust when loaded with kit but the Gunfighter system is

far more segmented and intelligently built. In fact, it could be argued that it's pretty modular beyond just the MOLLE system.

The "core" of the belt consists of an inner panel that is slightly stiffened and covered in Velcro loop. Instead of being a sleeve that slots onto a belt, the Gunfighter system actually comes equipped with two loose belt "ends". These sections can be velcro'd in place to form the fastening system. They can also be easily adjusted for a perfect fit.

This belt core can then be fitted with segmented velcro pieces that wrap around and fasten into place. These are of course where the MOLLE compatibility comes in, which segments coming in 4, 2 and 1 column widths to cover the entire core length. These sections are totally independent and can be removed and refitted as required but can also be left out entirely. This means that, provided your pouches are only MOLLE strapped onto one "segment" piece at a time, they can be added, removed and reordered





THE BELT CORE CAN BE FITTED WITH SEGMENTED VELCRO PIECES THAT WRAP AROUND AND FASTEN INTO PLACE. THESE ARE OF COURSE WHERE THE MOLLE COMPATIBILITY COMES IN, WITH SEGMENTS COMING IN FOUR, TWO AND ONE COLUMN WIDTHS TO COVER THE ENTIRE CORE LENGTH OF THE BELT SYSTEM

with ease. If they are left out altogether, this creates ample room for traditional belt loop or even paddle style holsters and accessories to be strapped under the belt ends that form part of the sandwich that makes up the Gunfighter system.

Presently the Gunfighter belt is available only as a complete kit solution at a very reasonable £69.95 in sizes Medium, Large and Extra Large. DO watch out for those UK Tactical sales emails though as they regularly put out short, time limited promotions on these items! As it stands the Gunfighter is a very capable belt system and the innovation within the system is brilliant. We'd like to see this taken one step further and the individual segments perhaps offered for sale separately to allow users to configure numerous panels to accommodate different weapon load outs. It'd also be great to see it they could somehow be incorporated into other pieces of gear, maybe a cummerbund design, a bandolier or even a pack of some sort. We know the guys

at Warrior have their ears to the ground so we'll be eagerly waiting on their response to this suggestion!

As for my feelings towards running a belt rig? Well, I'm still not totally comfortable with it no matter how modular or low profile the Gunfighter belt is but it's certainly up there with the best I have tried. I love the concept though, and maybe my opinions could be changed if somehow the Gunfighter could be slimmed down to a trouser belt width, but retain the segmented MOLLE aspect, allow you youth thread the belt through your belt loops, attach segments where required and not worry about them shifting? I'm just thinking aloud here though, and I'm sure such a design would throw up as many issues as it would solve.

Warrior's Gunfighter Belt is available in Multicam, pictured here, along with Coyote Tan, Black and Olive Green to suit all environments and load outs.



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Warrior only uses the highest quality US Mil Spec nylon threads imported from the USA which are treated against both UV and Mildew.

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GRIFFIN ARMAMENT FLASH HIDERS

PTS HAVE AGAIN ADDED ANOTHER STRING TO THEIR BOW AND INTRODUCED A NEW RANGE OF MUZZLE DEVICES TO THEIR OFFICIALLY LICENSED LINE-UP, THIS TIME FROM US-BASED REAL-STEEL COMPONENTS MANUFACTURER, GRIFFIN ARMAMENT. THESE NEW STEEL MUZZLE DEVICES GIVE YOU MORE WAYS TO CUSTOMISE YOUR SHOOTER IN STYLE AND END YOUR BARREL WITH A POINT!

The flash hiders, all made and etched with authentic logos, are made to the usual high standard we have come to expect from PTS components and feature a 14mm thread with CW and CCW versions available to fit nearly all replica guns. Prices are yet to be confirmed but by the time you read this, they should be in stock at your local airsoft retailer and ready to purchase. There are 4 new styles to choose from...

PTS® GRIFFIN ARMAMENT M4SD HAMMER COMP

Manufactured from CNC machined aluminium alloy and providing two sacrificial baffles, the Griffin Armament M4SD Hammer Comp was built to last whilst ensuring maximum recoil control and muzzle movement. The Airsoft version has been designed to be compatible with any A2-compatible suppressor mount including the PTS Griffin Armament M4SD Suppressor.



SPECIFICATION

- Colour: Black
- Material: CNC machined Aluminum Alloy
- Dimensions: 44 x 22 dia. mm
- Weight: 50g (approx.)
- Compatibility: any airsoft gun with 14mm clockwise or counter-clockwise barrel thread (not just the LM4/MKM).



PTS® GRIFFIN ARMAMENT M4SD LINEAR COMP

The Griffin Armament M4SD Linear Comp is the only muzzle device from Griffin Armament without any side ports, thus reducing side blast to other people beside the shooter's position. Instead it features three ports on top for muzzle neutrality as well as a de Laval nozzle in front to project linear flow of pressure down range. The Airsoft version has been designed to be compatible with any A2-compatible suppressor mount including the PTS Griffin Armament M4SD Suppressor.



SPECIFICATION

- Colour: Black
- Material: CNC machined Aluminum Alloy
- Dimensions: 57 x 22 dia. mm
- Weight: 50g (approx.)
- Compatibility: any airsoft gun with 14mm clockwise or counter-clockwise barrel thread (not just the LM4/MKM).



PTS® GRIFFIN ARMAMENT M4SD MUZZLE BRAKE

The Griffin Armament M4SD Muzzle Brake is designed purely to maximise recoil control and muzzle movement. It is perfect for rapid shooting situations such as competitions where minimal rifle and sight movement during rapid shooting is important for very fast and accurate follow up shots. The Airsoft version has been designed to be compatible with any A2-compatible suppressor mount including the PTS Griffin Armament M4SD Suppressor.



SPECIFICATION

- Colour: Black
- Material: Aluminum Alloy
- Dimensions: 57 x 22 dia. mm
- Weight: 50g (approx.)
- Compatibility: any airsoft gun with 14mm clockwise or counter-clockwise barrel thread.



PTS® GRIFFIN ARMAMENT M4SD PALADIN COMP

The Griffin Armament M4SD Paladin Brake is a light, compact premium muzzle control device using only a single port brake to provide a controlled, flat shooting performance. The Airsoft version has been designed to be compatible with any A2-compatible suppressor mount including the PTS Griffin Armament M4SD Suppressor.



SPECIFICATION

- Colour: Black
- Material: CNC machined Aluminum Alloy
- Dimensions: 44 x 22 dia. mm
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WHEN THE TEAM BEHIND VIPER TACTICAL APPROACHED US REGARDING A COMPLETE UPHEAVAL OF THEIR CURRENT RANGE, WE WERE INSTANTLY CURIOUS AS TO WHAT THEY HAD PLANNED. HOWEVER, WHAT WE WAS NOT PREPARED FOR WAS THE COMPANY TO COME OUT ALL GUNS BLAZING, NOT ONLY RELEASING A RANGE OF TACTICAL KIT THAT LOOKED ABSOLUTELY AMAZING, BUT ALSO CAME IN AT RIDICULOUSLY CHEAP PRICE POINTS.

VIPER TACTICAL ELITE JACKET

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Viper Tactical's relaunch has been somewhat of a revolution. A company based in England, Viper had long been known as a 'cheap and cheerful' brand; essentially providing kit that came in at such an affordable price that people weren't buying it for quality and longevity, more as a stop-gap that was easily replaced if damaged. That is no longer the case.

Viper Tactical are currently in what they call 'Stage 2' of their relaunch. Stage 1 saw their range being completely revamped, with a huge amount of product coming onto the market including some brilliantly made rucksacks and clothing that emulated various bigger brands around the globe, but brought the price plummeting down. Stage 2 is currently in the works, with individual items being released on a individual basis.

One item that caught our eyes that has been featured in both stages of their relaunch is the Elite Jacket. Stage 1 of Viper Tactical's launch saw them release the Elite Jacket in their own version of Multicam known as V-Cam; a pattern that uses the same colours as Multicam, but incorporates a 'V' pattern into the mix. This

V-Cam has allowed them to bring the price points down on their range massively, as they aren't having to buy genuine materials for extortionate prices. However when the two are put together, only the most seasoned eye would tell them apart. The Elite Jacket sold so well in V-Cam, that Stage 2 of their relaunch saw them produce the Elite Jacket in Black and what we would call a Coyote Brown, and again we're left in a situation where the price really doesn't add up to the quality and style of the jacket.

Made from a Micro-Shell material, the jacket offers both protection from light showers due to its water resistant technology as well as maximum comfort. When wearing the jacket you almost forget about its presence, which is about the biggest compliment I can give a lightweight Micro-Shell jacket. There are actually very few jackets on the market in its range that I would compare its sheer comfort to!

The jacket makes use of a stash-away hood, which is stored in the collar of the jacket. Two zips make for easy stowage and allows you to get access to the hood for both deploying and storing without actually having to remove

the jacket. The jacket also features 5 external pockets; two standard 'hand warmer' pockets, one chest pocket, two upper arm pockets and one smaller pocket located at the bottom of the left sleeve. The two upper arm pockets also feature Velcro to allow the user to display a variety of Velcro patches.

You've also got use of a 2-way YKK Zip, making it the perfect jacket to stash away and then pull out when the rain starts to come down. Why you ask? Simply because you're able to don the jacket over any existing clothing but still have the ability to get to anything you may need by undoing the zip from the bottom. On top of that you have use of underarm zipped vents to stop overheating in the jacket, as well as a bungee adjustable waist and elasticated cuffs with Velcro tabs to allow for adjustment.

At just over £50.00, the Viper Tactical Elite Jacket really is an example of a jacket done right and more importantly a jacket done right that doesn't cost you an absolute fortune. Sure it doesn't boast the latest technology, but does it have to? Not if it does the job specified... Which it does!



WATERPROOFING

EVER HEARD OF "RE-PROOFING"? PROBABLY NOT... SOUNDS A BIT BORING REALLY SINCE THERE'S NO EXPLOSIONS AND BBS FLYING, BUT INDULGING IN THE IDEA A LITTLE WILL CERTAINLY MAKE YOU MORE COMFORTABLE NEXT TIME THE HEAVENS OPEN AT A SKIRMISH!

As the saying goes "If it ain't raining, it ain't training" and "your skin is waterproof!" and all that other macho nonsense but in honestly, getting wet through to the skin isn't character building, it's miserable and certainly not something to do for fun. The good news is that it can easily be avoided with a little preparation and again, as the saying goes, there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices!

DWR, or Durable Water Resistant, treatments are what provide most garments with their effective water resistance. They are a chemical application that prevents water from "soaking in" to a

material and instead, it beads off of the surface literally like water on a duck's back.

At a factory level, DWR treatments can be applied in numerous industrial manners, like dipping, spraying or even vapour-coating material before it is sewn into a garment.

Becoming wet, even with salt water, generally does not have a negative affect on a DWR finish but washing in detergents or abrasion, like under bag straps or on elbows, can degrade the effects. Once the DWR treatment is worn off the material will then be more susceptible to being saturated. This degrades insulation properties and also

breathability in some technical fabrics.

Fortunately, there are many products on the market that allow you to restore the DWR finish on your garment, applying these products is known as "reproofing".

We purchased a simple spray-on reproofing liquid formula from a high street store. The small bottle contains enough to coat around 4 or 5 garments and restore their water-repellent finishes. There are many products on the market from brands like Grangers, Nikwax, McNett, Trek7, and others. Ask about them in your local outdoors store for more information on what is available.



DWR: WORKING

NOTICE HERE HOW THE WATER 'BEADS UP' UPON CONTACT WITH PROPERLY DWR TREATED FABRICS



DWR: NOT WORKING

NOTICE HERE HOW THE WATER SATURATES THE FABRIC WHICH IS IN NEED OF DWR RE-PROOFING

HOW TO RE-PROOF YOUR GARMENTS IN FIVE EASY STEPS

1 Re-proofing a dirty garment is a pointless exercise. Wash the garment first according to the care instructions on the label. If in doubt, contact the manufacturer for instruction or put on a cool handwash cycle with only a little detergent and no softeners.



2 Our proofing spray requires the formula to be applied to a dry garment, so we hung the jacket up to dry thoroughly. Some formulas require you to apply the spray or solution to a clean, wet garment, so check the instructions thoroughly before you begin.



3 Hang the garment in a suitable position and spray the re-proofing solution directly on, it's important that you try and apply this as evenly as possible. Don't saturate the material and do your best to get a fine and even coating all over the garment.



4 Once you are satisfied you have applied a fine coating all over the outside of the garment, allow it to air-dry naturally. Once dry, you can apply more DWR treatment spray to high-wear areas like the shoulders, around the cuff and under the arms.



5 To get the very best out of the DWR treatment, it's best to (very carefully) run a cool (in relative terms) iron over the surface to "seal" it. If this isn't possible, a gentle spin in a moderately warm tumble dryer can have the same effect.



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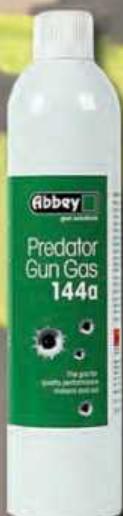
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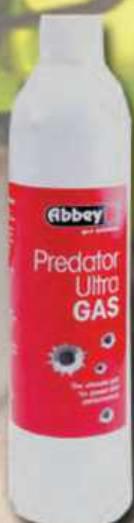
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ON TOPIC SHOOTING THE BREEZE WITH

FIRING POINT



WE'RE STILL DOING THAT, RIGHT?

REALISM. IT ALWAYS WAS THE FIRST WORD IN AIRSOFT, THE ONE THING WE HAD OVER PAINTBALL AND PROBABLY THE MOST VITAL ASPECT OF OUR LITTLE ENDEAVOUR BUT RECENTLY I'VE NOTICED THAT REALISM IS FALLING FURTHER AND FURTHER DOWN THE SCALES. IS AIRSOFT STILL "REALISTIC" AND INDEED, WAS IT EVER REALLY REALISTIC AT ALL?



ILLUSTRATED BY CRAIG

WITH EVERY LURID, GAUDY MASK AND EVERY COMEDY OVERSIZE FOAM SWORD AND EVERY LARGE INFLATABLE GAME PROP, I WORRY THAT AIRSOFT IS LOSING ITS ROOTS AS A TACTICAL GAME.

One of my first airsoft experiences took place in a woodland site towards the end of summer. I'd borrowed a rifle from a good friend of mine and had decked myself out, perhaps regrettably, in a surplus NBC suit. Whilst scrambling through a section of woodland with large, fern-type undergrowth, it began to rain quite heavily although it was only a passing shower. We forged on as a team, in almost total silence as the sun once again came out and lifted a swirling mist from the large, flat leaves of the surrounding plants. It looked and felt "real" and it was at that moment I became hooked on airsoft...

I'm not going to start the old VCRA debate up again, but it suffices to say that "realism" was one of the lynchpins of us being able to hold on to our beloved airsoft guns. It was presented forward that it was essential that we should be able to use guns that looked like the real thing otherwise airsoft would become untenable.

Indeed, there are still stalwarts in this camp that refuse to allow airsofters to "operate" on their sites with a two-tone gun purely because it undermines the entire premise of our defence in the first place, if you want to argue that one out I'm sure Andy from UCAP will happily hear your views.

Realism however, has always been prevalent in some way, shape or form. We play realistic scenarios in realistic kit, with realistic guns using realistic tactics... Or do we? Over the last few years, I've become sensitive to several little slips in this realism that have all built up and become commonplace. Of course, playing period games like WW2 or Vietnam era scenarios you always had to make the compromise of non-period correct ballistic glasses but that was a given.

A few years back, I visited The Mall, and I have to say, without disrespect towards those that run, attend and enjoy the games held at the venue in Reading, I was quite shocked to see some of the games in place that were astoundingly popular. The one that will forever stick in my mind was based around collecting a selection of large, oversize, novelty inflatable items in a trolley and pushing it down the middle of the former shopping centre to achieve victory. Plenty of people had fun doing it but at the time it didn't real strike me as anything based on reality, at least not outside some Saturday night gameshow hosted by Ant and Dec.

These days it's not uncommon to see face masks shaped like Batman, or zombies or something fitted to players that are running around the field. You'll get this going on next to some guy in a kilt swinging a large foam axe and shouting obscenities. Fun? It's not my bag of chips I can tell you, but I won't hold it against anyone that enjoys it, but "realistic"? Not really.

In terms of gaming I can understand or at least empathise with site operators going for less realistic games in favour of something that keeps people moving, having a laughing and shooting a lot of BBs. Sometimes the reality of a "realistic"

scenario, including a 45 minute walk through the bushes, only to not see anything of interest or even look through your sites isn't the most appealing. At the end of the day, most airsofters want to spend as long with their trigger pulled to the rear as possible.

Moving on from gaming scenarios, which have always needed a little adjustment due to the limitations of airsoft technology, I want to talk about airsoft guns themselves. With licensing and more and more real steel companies getting involved in airsoft there's the potential for more realism than ever before and indeed, we've seen guns come on leaps and bounds in recent times. On the other hand though, we have certain companies producing guns that I have politely termed "airsoft player's guns" as opposed to "collector's guns" that neither look like a real gun, nor work anything like a real gun. These abominations are in my mind, the downfall of tactical gameplay because when you can pack a hi-cap magazines and a 60 BB per second rate of fire into something not much bigger than a TV remote you really start to undermine the feasibility of small unit tactics, fire and manoeuvre or any of the other staples of "realistic" play. In mind this kind of thing also encourages horrific overkill and unsporting behaviour on the field.

Then, whilst I'm ranting, I really should voice my distaste for HPA guns. Airsoft did away with the need for external airlines and tanks some time ago and the very concept of them being bought back into circulation totally undermines any previous efforts at making airsoft feel more real. Regardless of the performance on offer, I really do not have any time for HPA and in my eyes at least, they have no place in airsoft.

You might be asking why I'm seemingly quite frustrated by this whole concept and to be honest, it's because I'm worried about the future of airsoft. There's always been a rift between airsofters and paintballers and there are differences between the two but with every little chink in the veneer of realism that airsoft maintains it slowly becomes more and more like paintball. I don't for a second pretend to despise paintballers or want to incite some kind of inter-activity war, but there's a reason I don't play paintball every week. I think it goes without saying that I don't want airsoft to turn into paintball.

With every lurid, gaudy mask and every comedy oversized foam sword and every large inflatable game prop, I worry that airsoft is losing its roots as a tactical game. With every high-speed BB hose funnelling out ammo in the vague direction of the enemy, I worry that airsoft is just becoming a power race about who can hook up the biggest battery to their AEG and with every HPA hose and tank I see, I get growingly concerned that we are forgetting that airsoft's biggest selling point was that it looked and felt "real".



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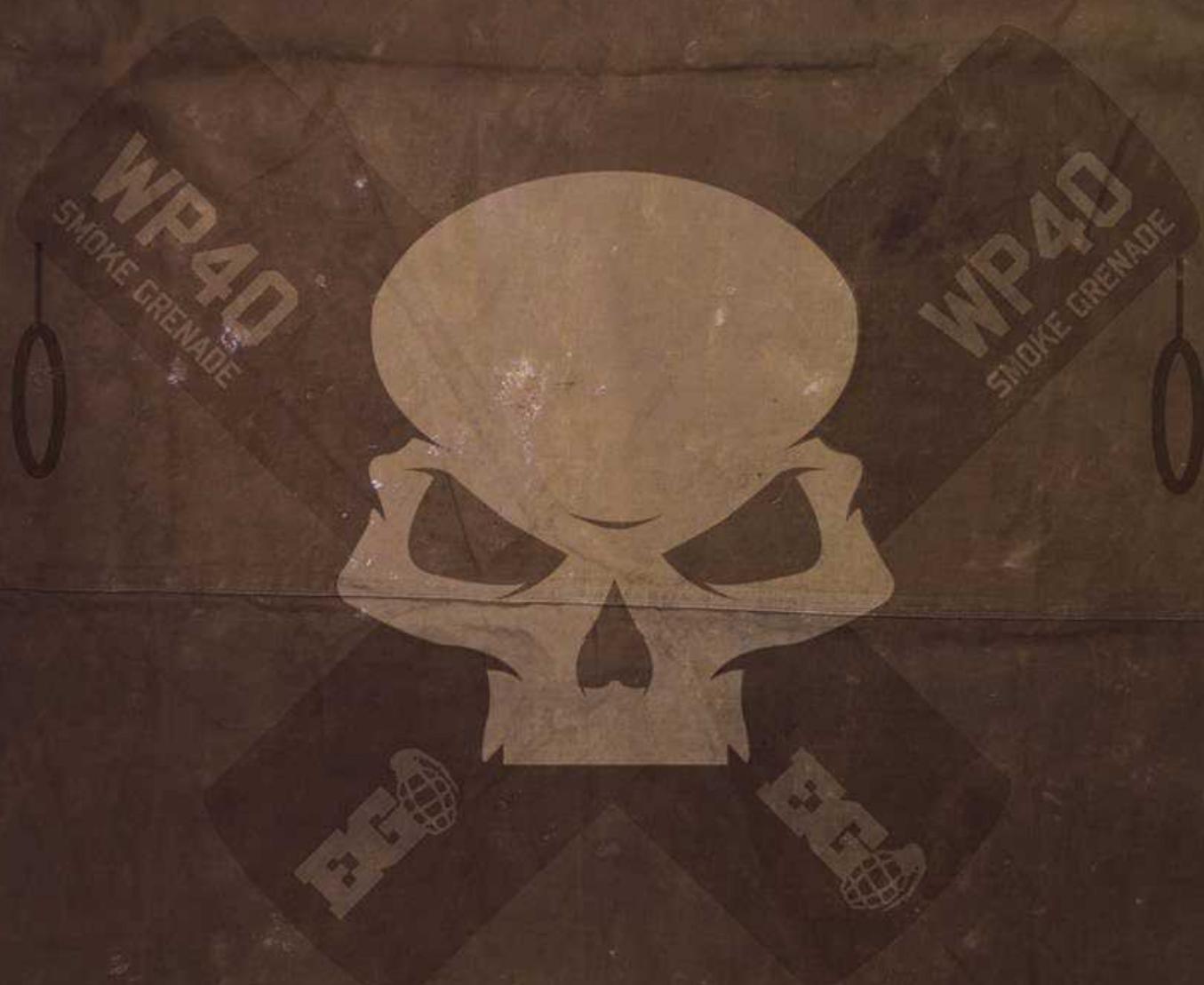
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SERVICING 101

FIX YOUR LEAKY FORTY-MIKE!

40MM MOSCART SHELLS CAN BE HILARIOUS, TERRIFYING TO FACE OFF AGAINST AND DEVASTATINGLY EFFECTIVE EXCEPT SOMETIMES INSTEAD OF A SATISFYING POP AND A CLOUD OF BBS SHOWERING INTO THE INTENDED TARGET ROOM, YOU GET... NOTHING... NADA... ZILCH. ON TOP OF THIS DISAPPOINTMENT YOU'LL PROBABLY GET SHOT FOR YOUR TROUBLES.

The reasons for this are that moscart shells are basically gas reservoirs that blast out their contents upon the release valve being hit. The contents includes liquid gas that rapidly expands into a gaseous state, BBs and of course, the lubrication that keeps the sealing o-rings supple.

If you're a persistent reader of our Devil features, you'll know that o-rings NEED to be lubricated in order to provide a sound seal, and a seal is exactly what you need when holding pressurised gas.

Although they have come down in price in recent years, an individual moscart can cost upwards of £35 so it's an expensive game equipping yourself with so many you can afford to have one or two leak on you. A leak isn't the end of the world though and they can be fixed relatively easily. At worst you will need a new valve and some o-rings of the right sizes but generally a little liberal application of silicone grease will have your 40 mike mike back in the game.

→ SPARES

If you do have valve problems after following this guide, popping to your local airsoft store is the best place to go for new fill valves. They may also be able to supply you with o-rings but a cheaper supplier will be your local bearing factor or hardware store. Moscarts use certain standardised o-rings so just take your damaged ones in and they will be able to measure and supply new ones for a couple of pence a piece.

→ PREVENTION

The idea of being able to fix your moscarts is a relief, but what about being able to prevent them from going wrong in the first place!?

Great! In order to give yourself the best chance of a working shell you need to store the things with a little gas in them, just like you would a pistol magazine. Do bear in mind though that they can fire without being in a gun or launcher, so don't store them with any BBs in.

We're going to show you how to strip a King Arms moscart which is a generic design, and an S-Thunder which is a little different. The principle is pretty much the same for all brands, but you might need to get different sized O-rings. Possibly the most valuable thing to take away is the method of stripping the release valve, which can be useful on a number of different 40mm shell devices.



DISCLAIMER

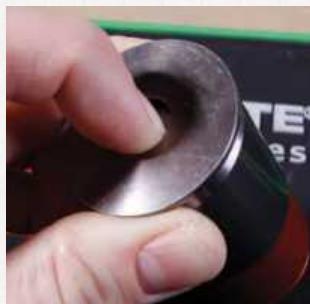
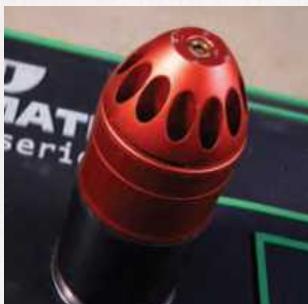
This is a fiddly job. Take your time and use common sense and you'll be fine. If you are struggling though (we won't be held responsible for failed moscart repairs!), contact the experts at Firesupport who will be happy to help.

WE'RE GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO STRIP A KING ARMS MOSCART, AND AN S-THUNDER. THE PRINCIPLE IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME FOR ALL BRANDS.

FIXING A KING ARMS MOSCART

STEP 1

First of all, make absolutely sure the moscart is empty of all BBs. If it is, it's safe to press the button on the bottom to make sure there's no gas in it - you do not want to be unscrewing one that's pressurised. We advise wearing your safety glasses when checking anything like this. You'll also need a bowl to work in (I've got an old dog's water bowl).



STEP 2

Working over the bowl, unscrew the body of the grenade. In the base, you should find the plunger and a spring. You'll probably also find a few ball-bearings, and the sealing plug might be stuck in the top part of the moscart. Make sure you don't lose any of the ball-bearings... in the King Arms you'll have eight. Collect them all up, and lay them in the bottom of the bowl.



STEP 3

If you want, you can pop the valve out of the top of the grenade. You can do this with a flat-bladed screwdriver. You can actually strip the valve itself apart, but there's little benefit to this really as the internal O-ring is really tiny.



STEP 4

Use some plumber's silicone grease to lubricate the O-ring, then screw it back into place, being careful to not cross-thread it.



STEP 5

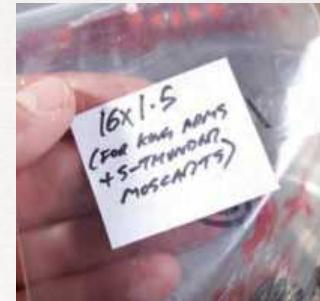
Now thoroughly clean both parts of the moscart, making sure you haven't still got any of the eight ball-bearings stuck to it. Lose one, and it won't work again. The O-ring around the body can be lubricated now. Plumber's silicone grease is great because it causes O-rings to swell very slightly - perfect for a good seal. You could replace this O-ring, but there's not much need unless it's torn.

**STEP 6**

Here's the sealing plug with its eight ball-bearings. Did I mention that you mustn't lose them?!

**STEP 7**

Having made sure there are no ball-bearings left in the plug, remove the O-ring. If it's intact, just lubricate it, but I'm replacing it with a 16x1.5 O-ring from Anglia Bearings (my local bearing factor, and a fantastically helpful store). Wipe some silicone grease on it before popping it back in place.

**STEP 8**

With the O-ring back on, wipe some silicone into each of the four holes. This will keep the ball-bearings in place as you load them. You need to put two in each hole. If they keep falling out, get a little more silicone on them. Because there's no hop at the end of this gas path, like in a GBB pistol, you can afford to be a little more generous with the grease as it doesn't matter when it blows out on the first firing. Don't use anything but silicone grease, as others can contain petrochemicals which can damage rubber O-rings.



STEP 9

Now push the plug into the base of the top section of the moscart, followed by the spring, then the plunger. As you push the plunger in, the ball-bearings will start to push out. When the plunger is at the bottom, keep it there with your thumb whilst pressing the ball-bearings back in again.



STEP 10

This is the awkward bit... whilst keeping your thumb on the plunger, and keeping the top of the moscart balanced upside down in the bowl, pick up the grenade's base with a largish crosshead screwdriver. Poke it into the bottom first, as shown. Now put the tip of the screwdriver onto the bottom (at the moment the top) of the plunger to keep it held down, then screw the base all the way on. The first time you do this, and most likely the following two or three, the moscart will flip over and fall apart. Curse gently, then realise why you're working inside a bowl. With practice, this is quite simple, but keeping the whole thing balanced can be a challenge!



FIXING AN S-THUNDER MOSCART

STEP 1

This is a similar process, so make sure you read the previous steps first. The main difference is in the plug, which has two O-rings and four ball-bearings. The valve is also built into the base in this case. As before, replace, or more likely just lubricate the large O-ring around the body of the grenade.



STEP 2

With two O-rings on the plug, grease them up or replace them with the same 16x1.5 of the King Arms, as well as a 0181/16. Again, give all new O-rings a wipe with silicone grease.



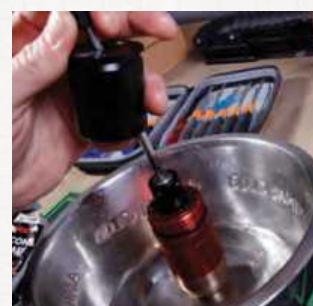
STEP 3

Wipe some silicone grease into the holes, the press the four ball-bearings in.



STEP 4

As before, you can now pick up the base with a cross-head screwdriver, hold the plunger and spring in place on the fitted plug, then check the ball-bearings are all still correctly seated before screwing the base back on. Job done!





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The law of the land states that all men should make a satisfying, metallic jangle as they walk down the road. In years gone by this was produced by a healthy pocketful of loose change but in these times of credit cards and Paypal, it can be difficult to attain any useful volume of coins. To augment their footsteps, many men turned to an array of keys clipped to a belt loop to provide the necessary acoustic presence and to make this practical, a good carabiner is essential. The manliest of carabiners on the market for a reasonable price is the Petzl OK at under £10. With a breaking strain of 24 kN, it's going to be fine with even all the keys in the house, plus it looks impressive clipped to a bag or pack. It's also suitable for climbing, so should you find yourself needing to lower yourself into a well to rescue a child, you'll be all set.

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SOG's Voodoo Hawk is a manly tool. It's primarily designed for busting stuff up, breaching doors and windows and generally causing havoc in the hands of men on a mission to catch the bad guys. It's equally at home for the more mundane tasks you might encounter on a camping trip like chopping branches and whittling down some kindling for the campfire. It's got a narrow head so it's not ideal for splitting larger logs as it just digs in deep without wedging the logs apart, but it's definitely got that tactical utility styling. The 'hawk also has a metal pommel on the end of the handle, useful for bashing pegs into the ground or other tasks requiring a little blunt force. The Voodoo comes with a SOG branded nylon sheath that's easy to affix to a pack.

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THIS MONTH: BUYING AIRSOFT GUNS

IT MUST BE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TIME OF YEAR AND THE INEVITABLE FLURRY OF FESTIVE GIFTS, BUT WE SEEM TO GET INUNDATED WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT BUYING AIRSOFT GUNS FROM NOVEMBER ONWARDS. IT'S AN IMPORTANT TOPIC BECAUSE AT THE VERY LEAST YOU MAY GO HOME DISAPPOINTED TO FIND OUT THAT YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY PURCHASE AN AIRSOFT GUN AT ALL AND AT WORST, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN COMPLICIT IN BREAKING THE LAW. IN ORDER TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE CLEARER FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS, AND INDEED THOSE THAT AREN'T TOTALLY CLEAR ON THE LAWS IN PLACE HERE'S OUR SIMPLE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES FOR BUYING AIRSOFT RIFS OR GUNS.

It goes without saying that airsoft IS 100% legal when carried out on private premises or at an organised event with the appropriate insurance. It might come as a surprise then to find out that in the strictest interpretation of the law, it's actually illegal to sell a Realistic Imitation Firearm.

The laws stating that the sale of such items were passed as part of the Violent Crimes Reduction Act 2006. This did not specifically state that airsoft guns were illegal, moreover lumped airsoft guns into the category of RIFs. A RIF is simply anything that could be perceived as a weapon, regardless of its ability to fire any kind of projectile. As those laws stood, unopposed, they would have meant that all airsoft guns would have needed to have been converted to, or sold as an Imitation Firearm instead. To qualify as a RIF, a gun must be coloured predominantly in a unrealistic and bright colour. (These specific colours are set in law, the most commonly used are bright red, bright blue, bright green and bright orange.)

Many guns we find imported to the UK are manufactured for the US market. This means they have a bright orange section around the muzzle. There is nothing in UK law pertaining to this and as such, a bright orange muzzle on a gun means absolutely nothing in UK law.

After these laws were proposed, extensive lobbying from the airsoft retail industry bought to light the then niche activity of airsoft in the eyes of the Government and as a result, a defence was established for the sale of Realistic Imitation Firearms.



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DEFENCES

The word "defence" is used in relation to RIFs and it's important. There is no "license" to own an airsoft gun although providing you have legitimate reason to use a RIF in a law-abiding manner, under some pre-defined activities, exception can be made.

In order to purchase or sell a RIF from a retailer, you must be able to convince them that you are a legitimate airsofter eligible for a defence under law. How you do this is down to the self-policing policy of the retailer in question.

If a retailer were to take a customers word that they were an airsofter with legitimate intentions for their purchase, and that individual turned out to be lying and wished to use the RIF in illegal activities, it is likely that the retailer would find themselves under the scrutiny of the authorities.

MEMBERSHIPS & DEFENCES

There are a number of schemes and clubs in place that allow airsofters to join in order to track their activity and prove their activity within organised airsoft (and therefore a defence in law). None of these schemes are currently recognised as an official or legally endorsed method, however some retailers prefer customers to be members of one or another.

Examples of these include:

- UKARA
- BRITISH AIRSOFT CLUB
- SWAT PASS

Being a member of one of these schemes or clubs still does not give you a license as such, because individual retailers may only recognise and feel comfortable with dealing with customers that are members of certain clubs or schemes. This is the individual retailers decision to make and they withhold the right to refuse a sale if they are not satisfied that the customer has a legitimate use for the product. It's important to check with your preferred retailer to find out which schemes or clubs they recognise and use.

If you are unable to qualify for a defence or unable to convince your chosen retailer of it in a manner that suits their business practice, you may be offered a "two-tone" gun, as outlined above as a RIF, if you are over 18. Unless you subsequently qualify for a defence, it is illegal to "manufacture a RIF" by painting or otherwise modifying the gun.

WHAT A DEFENCE ALLOWS

When you have a defence, you may purchase airsoft guns but that is the extent of what it allows you to do. Under no circumstances, defence or not, are you allowed to brandish or display a RIF in a public place or carry one in public without an adequate bag or box that completely conceals it from public view.



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